

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

The other day Guy Hickok of the First National bank handed me a copy of a report prepared by the statistical department of his bank covering the cattle and sheep population in Oregon. This report showed that the number of cattle in Oregon had increased from 575,883 head in 1938 to 786,327 in 1943, a gain of 36.6%.

For the United States the gain was 15.9%. In the case of sheep there was a decrease in Oregon of 15.6% representing liquidation of flocks and adjustment under the Taylor grazing act.

With this marked increase in cattle the question arises over the wisdom of relaxing slaughtering quotas and even of meat rationing. The Bend Bulletin editorializes on these statistics and later figures and offers the opinion that meat rationing might well be suspended. Very recently OPA did relax its ration points on meats.

The balancing of prices and of requirements which will permit the regular flow of livestock from breeding through feeding and fattening and marketing is a most difficult task.

There are three simple, workable procedures according to Mr. Hickok that would help the situation:

- 1. Discontinuance of slaughter quotas in government licensed packing plants.
2. Radical reduction in point rationing of beef products.
3. Guaranty of floor and ceiling prices on meat and meat animals, such floor and ceiling prices to be somewhere in line with the ones now in (Continued on Editorial Page)

Road in Burma Falls to Allies After 2 Years

By PRESTON GROVER NEW DELHI, March 13-(AP) The inland part of the Buthe-daung-Maungdaw road, necessary for an offensive on Akyab, Burma port 55 miles to the south, has been taken with the capture of Buthe-daung after two years of fighting by British and Indian troops, it was announced today.

The British drove past the road in their abortive offensive in Arakan last year, but had to give it up when the Japanese suddenly emerged from the jungle to the north and cut across their rear.

British and American airmen flew a record number of sorties in excess of 500—over all the battle fronts without losing a single plane.

Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten's southeast Asia command said the enemy was driven off a dominant hill at Htindaw and other high positions west of Buthe-daung, from hills to the south and southwest of Buthe-daung and from other positions around Razabil to the north.

West Africans, who had outflanked Buthe-daung by taking Kyauktaw, across the Mawdok range to the southeast, also occupied enemy posts on high ground to the northwest of that village, while along the swampy, creek-laced Bay of Bengal coast south of Maungdaw the British carried out another of their commando-like raids against surprised Japanese.

In the north Burma theatre of the Hukawng valley the Chinese and American force of Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell was able to make a gain of only two miles in 24 hours of fighting.

Here the allies were five miles south of Chanma, or about seven miles south of Walaubum where Maj. Gen. Frank Merrill's American marauders sprang their trap on the enemy last week, and were in a position to drive into the Mogaung valley where they could threaten the Myitkyina railway, chief Japanese base in north Burma.

Weather Monday maximum temperature 54, minimum 24. River 3.6 feet. Fair Tuesday and Wednesday; continued cold at night; warmer east portion Wednesday.

Kherson Falls; Reds Pursue Nazis

RAF, US Again Hit Continent

French Invasion Coast Bombers No Nazi Interlopers

By AUSTIN BEALMEAR LONDON, Tuesday, March 14 (AP)—RAF bombers crossed the southeast coast late last night for another blow at the continent after US bombers blasted by daylight at German positions in the French coastal area.

US Flying Fortresses in small force smashed yesterday at German forward positions in northern France—target of an estimated 15,000 sorties in the last three months—as the time for a newly intensified, and perhaps decisive, period of the air war approached with the waning moon.

Again the Germans failed to send up a single fighter to Britain, where the enemy is known to have emplaced rocket guns, robot planes, and anti-invasion weapons.

But two of the B-17's which crossed the channel under a Thunderbolt escort failed to return, victims either of anti-aircraft fire or mechanical failures.

US ninth air force Marauders struck the same area in the afternoon, escorted by RAF, Dominion and allied Spitfires. Mosquito bombers staged a third attack, losing one plane.

This battered strip of northern France now has been attacked 58 times in the last 90 days.

The daylight blow followed raids on western Germany last night by RAF Mosquitos, none of which was lost.

Bright moonlight of recent nights has limited the RAF to low-level precision bombing by relatively small forces, but within a few more nights the moon which has saved the Germans from saturation night assaults will be gone.

Meanwhile it was learned that the US air force has given top priority to the attack on the continent.

Partisans Gain Hold on Island In Adriatic Sea

By EDWARD D. BALL LONDON, March 13-(AP)—Led by an unidentified American officer, a Yugoslav partisan force has seized a foothold on Brac island in the Adriatic, a rocky sentinels athwart the entrance to the German-held port of Split, the Yugoslav army of liberation declared today.

The port of Pucisce on the northeast of Brac was occupied, the broadcast communique said.

The operation presumably was part of the continuing allied effort to broaden and safeguard the Adriatic supply route to Marshal Tito (Josip Broz) and might be the prelude to an attack upon Split itself, the finest Yugoslav harbor.

Another possibility was that the allies were seeking to break up German coast-wise shipping, which increased noticeably after the Nazis seized Italian naval vessels at Fiume when Italy surrendered.

Doomed Plane



A two-motored German fighter plane is hit by an American fighter craft over Europe (top), begins to trail smoke (center) and appears to be in ruinous flame (below) as black smoke indicates burning oil or gas. US bombers to the right, meanwhile, continue on their mission. (AP Wirephoto from army air forces)

Italian Mud Stalls Ground Operations

By EDWARD KENNEDY ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, March 13-(AP)—Ground operations in Italy have come to an almost complete standstill, with both sides so deeply mired in clinging Italian mud that only the opposing artillery is able to maintain the battle.

Allied artillery put in a heavy day yesterday shelling German troop concentrations and gun positions around the rim of the Anzio beachhead, considerably increasing its volume of fire, but otherwise action was limited strictly to the aerial campaign against Field Marshal Albert Kesselring's supply lines.

British battlefronters hit two German supply ships off the Spanish coast, beaching one and leaving the other in sinking condition, an announcement said.

(A German broadcast termed this attack "a violation of international law," and identified the sunken vessel as the 3700-ton German refrigerator ship Kirisi. It said 10 crewmen were killed and 15 wounded.)

Allied naval forces in the Adriatic were reported to have sunk two enemy vessels last Friday and Saturday nights.

In all, the allied force flew some 300 sorties yesterday without losing a plane. One German plane was destroyed.

Barkeley Calls On Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, March 13-(AP) Senator Barkeley, democratic leader of the senate, called on President Roosevelt today for the first time since his break with the White house over the president's tax veto, and reported a most agreeable session.

Eire's Border To Close

British-Irish Travel Barrier To Be Extended

DUBLIN, March 13-(AP)—A high authority said tonight that the border between neutral Eire and northern Ireland would be closed. Even while this information indicated a drastic extension of the British-Irish travel ban, it was said that there would be no immediate formal sanctions against Eire by the allies.

The authority, who cannot be identified by name, indicated that any hopes the neutral Irish might have that the decision on stopping traffic across the 200-mile border might be left to the Belfast (Ulster) government were unfounded.

There was no evidence of any passionate feeling toward Eire, who own press as well as that of Britain was avoiding any high tone of anger. But it was clear that the supreme allied leadership was determined to deal quickly and thoroughly with the whole problem of the presence of enemy informers in Eire.

American and British action already taken, as well as that probably contemplated, was flavored more with the military considerations of the forthcoming opening of the western front than with any diplomatic or political considerations. This first was suggested by the official British statement itself, which in effect promised removal of the restrictions when the military would permit.

The British home office order last night suspended all travel, except in cases of greatest urgency, between Britain and Ireland, both northern Ireland and Eire. It was made just two days after Prime Minister Eamon De Valera made known his refusal to agree to the request of the United States that Japanese and German legations in Eire be closed.

Travel on Belfast-Dublin trains was restricted during the day almost wholly to soldiers and sailors in multi returning from leave. There was almost a total absence of ordinary traffic.

One Dublin hotel had only three cross-Irish sea reservations against its normal 200 to 400 a week.

Eire Ban Hits British Farms

DUBLIN, March 13-(AP)—Considerable anxiety was expressed tonight over the possibility that the British-Irish travel ban might be extended to movements between Eire and northern Ireland.

While travel across the Irish sea involves about 300,000 trips a year, suspended of cross-border communications would affect about 1,250,000 trips.

There was some question as to whether the British will permit farm labor to come under the urgent work classification exempt from the ban. It was pointed out, since the annual migratory exodus of Irish farm laborers has barely started.

Mrs. Roosevelt In Dutch Guiana

PARAMARIBO, Surinam, March 13—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt arrived today at an airfield in Surinam (Dutch Guiana) on her tour of United States bases in the Caribbean area.

Peace Envoy From Rumania Off for Cairo

LONDON, March 13-(AP)—Prince Barbu Stirbey was declared in a Daily Mail dispatch from Ankara today to have left Istanbul for Cairo in the role of Rumanian peace envoy to continue conversations with allied authorities.

The former Rumanian premier holds a special pass which will enable him to enter allied territory, the dispatch said, and added that the very fact the pass was issued indicated that his mission was receiving serious attention of British authorities.

Stirbey is a bitter opponent of former King Carol, who once exiled him to Switzerland. The Daily Mail dispatch said he had talked with both Americans and British in Ankara.

Desperate Jap Attack Turned Back by Allies

By ROBERT EUNSON ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Southwest Pacific, Tuesday, Mar. 14-(AP)—A desperate attack by three to four thousand Japanese on American positions at Empress Augusta bay on Bougainville island in the Solomons was turned back Saturday, with about one-third of the attacking force killed, the allied communique said today.

All the Japanese who succeeded in getting through the defenders' barbed wire were wiped out before nightfall.

Nearly 150 American navy bombers supported the ground troops by smashing enemy infantry, artillery and machinegun positions and support troops. "It was a well-organized attack," a headquarters spokesman said of the Japanese thrust.

Concentration of Japanese troops around the beachhead northeast of Cape Torokina, where the allies have two airfields, had been noted for several days. Last Thursday the Japanese made an attack which cost them 100 dead, and the following day allied bombers and American destroyers hammered the enemy's artillery positions, from which he was throwing artillery shells onto the airfields.

Troopers of the first cavalry division moved from their well established invasion positions on Los Negros island in the Admiralties to occupy two small islands on Seidler harbor. The islets, Hauwei and Butjo Luo, were hammered by American artillery firing from Los Negros and (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Canada Refuses To Plead for Eire

OTTAWA, March 13-(AP)—Prime Minister W. L. MacKenzie King said today Canada had rejected a suggestion from Prime Minister Eamon De Valera that she use her influence to have withdrawn the United States' notes requesting the closing of German and Japanese diplomatic and consular office in Eire.

The Canadian government was in full sympathy with the Washington request, King told the house of commons.

Gas Ration for 'A' Cards May Be Cut to Two Gallons

WASHINGTON, March 13-(AP) A gasoline ration cut for "A" card holders in the west and midwest appeared as a possibility tonight, holding them down to the two weekly gallons allowed motorists on the eastern seaboard.

Reds Give Finland Few Days

Last Chance Said Offered For Armistice

By JOHN H. COLBURN STOCKHOLM, Tuesday, Mar. 14-(AP)—Soviet Russia was understood today to have given Finland a few more days to accept her armistice terms in a stern answer to the week-old Finnish request for an opportunity to negotiate conditions under which Finland would quit the war.

A heavily censored message from Edwin Shanke, Associated Press correspondent in Helsinki, hinted at "dramatic developments" within the next few days and suggested that the Finnish government must make a decision quickly—possibly at a scheduled parliamentary session today—or face severe consequences.

The exact nature of the reply Moscow made yesterday to the Finnish counter proposals is unknown but it was strongly indicated that Russia stood to all purposes on its original principal demands that Finland intern German troops in the country, withdraw to her 1940 borders and repatriate Russian prisoners.

Russia's reply was believed to have offered Finland one last chance to quit the war on conditions substantially the same as those tendered the Finns at their request about three weeks ago.

The peace crisis was described in informed quarters here as "getting tougher" for Finland every hour.

Neither government, however, was believed to have closed the door to eventual agreement.

Rome Safety Up to Nazis, Hull Declares

WASHINGTON, March 13-(AP)—The United States served notice tonight that if Rome becomes a battleground and treasured relics of christianity there are destroyed the blame will be upon the Germans.

Secretary of State Hull declared that German soldiers have entrenched themselves in Italian shrines and monuments and that allied military authorities "are dealing primarily with considerations of military necessity."

This statement was in response to Pope Pius XII's appeal yesterday to allied and German leaders to spare Nazi-occupied Rome "So that they may be remembered in benediction and not malediction."

Hull made no promise to spare Rome, although he stressed the desire of the allied authorities to avoid destruction of holy and historic places, and human lives, "to the extent humanly possible."

The secretary of state was questioned about the pope's appeal at a press conference, and issued a formal answer to the queries later in the day. Added weight attached to his words because of the fact that correspondents were permitted to quote them directly, a somewhat unusual procedure.

Black Sea Base Capture Opens Way to Odessa

New Thrust Past Tarnopol Puts Soviets Near Rumania

By TOM YARBROUGH LONDON, Tuesday, March 14-(AP)—Gen. Rodion Y. Malinovsky's Stalingrad veterans wiped out a panic-stricken German garrison at Kherson yesterday, capturing that big axis Black sea base at the mouth of the Dnieper river and boosting the toll of German dead and captured to 75,000 in 10 days, Moscow announced at midnight.

Striking with crushing speed 22 miles down the west bank of the Dnieper river, the third Ukraine army chased the Germans, "who fled in panic" into Kherson. Then breaking into the strategic city "on the heels of the retreating Germans" the soviet soldiers quickly slaughtered those who sought to make a stand, said the bulletin recorded by the Soviet Monitor.

Russia, Italy To Exchange Ambassadors

By RICHARD G. MASSOCK NAPLES, March 13-(AP)—Soviet Russia and Italy are exchanging ambassadors, the government of Pietro Badoglio announced tonight, marking the first diplomatic recognition by any of the united nations of the Badoglio regime.

The Soviet action apparently was taken without consultation with other allied governments, which also have Badoglio's request for exchanges of diplomats.

A British diplomatic official here yesterday professed lack of any knowledge of the step, although Italian communist leaders said they knew a week ago it was impending.

On the other hand, American officials here were understood to have had advance knowledge of it, although none would comment on the matter which, it was said, concerned only the Italian and Soviet governments.

Diplomatic relations between Italy and Russia were severed June 22, 1941, when Benito Mussolini declared war on the Soviet nation, the day his axis partner Adolf Hitler invaded Russia.

While Russia has not yet accepted the Italian government, (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

Navy Bombers Attack Wake

US PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, Mar. 13-(AP)—Big Liberator bombers of the seventh army air force and the navy's fleet air wing two gave little Wake island a 50-ton bombing Saturday without losing a plane.

Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, the central Pacific commander, said in his press release today that other American bombers hit Nauru island, just southwest of the Gilberts, and three Japanese bases in the eastern Marshalls. It was the 14th raid of the war on Nauru.

The attack on Wake, which was captured by the Japanese only after a historic fight shortly after Pearl Harbor, was the eighth this year. The last previous bombing was on January 30 when 21 tons of explosives were dropped. It was hit hard in a two-day carrier plane and surface bombardment last October.

Wake is 620 statute miles north of the Marshalls and 2300 west of Hawaii.

70,000 Still Out In British Strike

LONDON, March 13-(AP)—Only 30,000 of Britain's striking coal miners returned to work today while 70,000 others ignored the appeals of the government and their own union leaders alike as the strike went into its second week.

In Wales dozens of the biggest pits in the country—some of them almost in sight of army camps where American doughboys are training for the invasion—remain idle in the dispute which is costing the country at least 300,000 tons of coal a week.

At three points the Russians were threatening the approach to the Rumanian—newly captured Stalau, 35 miles southeast of Tarnopol, in the southeast corner of old Poland, south of Proskorov rail junction in the west Ukraine, and at Galva. (Turn to Page 2—Story A)