

IT SEEMS TO ME

That the Germans realize they have lost this war, and further that German leaders are planning now for a third world war...

John McCormac, Washington correspondent of the New York Times, in a copyrighted article, relates how Germany plans to cripple her neighbors...

The loot would include such things as jewelry, precious metals, art objects, stamp collections...

Heavy Bombers Blast Airfields In North Italy

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, March 18 (AP)—Heavy bombers, fighting their way through a large number of enemy aircraft, today attacked five airfields in northeastern Italy.

The fields attacked were Villorba, Maniago, Livarigo and Gorizia, all in the general vicinity of Udine, whose airfield was also attacked.

Maj. Herschel H. Green of Mayfield, Ky., scored his 11th victory in aerial combat in this operation, destroying a Messerschmitt.

S/Sgt. Girard Charron of Hackensack, N.J., Liberator tail gunner who flew over Gorizia airfield, said "planes were taking off in all directions as we went over but our bombs splattered the field like rain and beat them back into the ground."

SATURDAY'S RESULTS "A" Division final: Ashland 55, Bend 35. "B" Division final: Powers 55, Bend 25.

Lopsided Wins Erase Tourney Opponents Find No Way to Stop Victorious Teams

By AL LIGHTNER Statesman Sports Editor Ashland high's Grizzlies of the "A" division and Powers high's Cruisers of the "B" boys last night swept to the throne...

It was Ashland's second state championship in a dozen tries—the Grizzlies took home to southern Oregon the state's highest prep hoop award back in 1922.

The lopsided wins were a complete reversal of the trend which turned the 25th classic into one of the hottest scraps ever—there just wasn't any stopping either of the racing quint.

For the Grizzlies, who set a new all-time high for points scored by a team in winning a championship game—the old mark was held by Klamath Falls of last year at 82 points—it was a case of coming from the unseemly district 2 rank, fighting two uphill but winning battles against St. Helens Thursday and Washington of Portland Friday, and then turning on true championship heat to blaze their way to the coveted seat atop the prep hoop hordes.

In wallowing the fighting but outclassed Lava Bears last night, Coach Al Simpson's club joined with Coach Claude Cook's Highlanders in setting another new mark—aggregate points scored in a championship game. The 90 counted last night topped the 80 notched by Klamath Falls and Baker in the finale a year ago.

The all-veteran Cruisers of Coos county, every one of 'em here a year ago to finish in third place, gave off with their second gaudy performance last night. Coached by Elwin Frye, an unimposing gent in his very first year of prep coaching and coming from a school which has an enrollment of exactly 30 students in all—boys and girls included—the Powers quint had the tourney old-timers muttering "Shades of 1937 and Bellfountain." So scintillating were these sharp-passing and seemingly tireless ballhawks that more than a few hoop citizens were convinced they could have held their own with any "A" quint entry.

500,000 Oregonians Pay Income Taxes Portland, March 18 (AP)—From 450,000 to 500,000 Oregonians paid income taxes this year, James W. Maloney, collector of internal revenue, estimated today.

Military, Production Agree To Defer Key Men Under 26

By WILLIAM T. PEACOCK WASHINGTON, March 18 (AP)—Agreement was reported reached today between the armed services and production agencies whereby about 40,010 men under 26 who have key jobs in war industries will be deferred from the draft.

Reds Sweep Ukraine to Dniester RAF Pounds Frankfurt After US Blitz on Reich

Oregon's New State Hoop Champions



ASHLAND GRIZZLIES (above) and Powers Cruisers (below) became "A" and "B" division champions of the 25th annual Oregon state basketball tournament last night at Willamette university by overwhelming Bend, 55-35, and Pleasant Hill, 55-25, respectively.

Yanks Break Through Stiff Jap Defenses

By MURLIN SPENCER ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Southwest Pacific, Sunday, March 19 (AP)—An American dismounted cavalrymen fighting in the Admiralty met stubborn opposition and elaborate Japanese defenses in and around the town of Lorengau, but with the aid of tanks broke through the enemy lines in some places, allied headquarters said today.

Latest reports of the fighting Friday before this last Japanese stronghold on Manus island in the Admiralty group were fragmentary, but a headquarters spokesman said the troopers of the first cavalry regiment had encountered "elaborate entrenchments" and had knocked out some of them.

Indications that the Americans had achieved successes against the enemy in their drive southward from Lorengau airdrome, which they captured Thursday, (Turn to Page 2—Story A)

Finn-Russian Statements Due

By ROBERT N. STURDEVANT STOCKHOLM, March 18 (AP)—Finland and Russia may make official statements some time this weekend clarifying the status of armistice negotiations now believed to have reached a stalemate after weeks of negotiation.

All Finland awaited with anxiety word from their government on diplomatic activities which were generally believed to have resulted in Finland's polite refusal to accept soviet terms.

The Finns were reported to have given the Russians yesterday a note containing their government's answer to Russian armistice proposals. The Finnish government's stand was supported by a unanimous vote in parliament, an official communique had announced.

Although diplomats have characterized the Finnish answer as a "polite no," the Finnish people have not yet been officially advised. The Helsingki radio made no mention of the negotiations tonight when the whole country expected an announcement.

A heavily-censored report from the Helsinki correspondent of the Associated Press, telephoned to Stockholm, said there was great political activity in the Finnish capital during the day.

Kurile Raids Bring Air War Nearer Japan

By MORRIS LANDSBERG US PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, March 18 (AP)—American aerial warfare was carried closer to the heart of Japan Thursday and Friday as US army and navy planes struck against the Kurile islands in six bombing raids.

The greatest penetration was made by an army bomber. It struck against Matsuwa island, only 960 nautical miles from Tokyo, on March 16. The attacking Liberator of the 11th army air force met no opposition.

On the same day navy Ventura search planes of air wing four blasted Paramushiro and Shimushu islands. Fighter opposition was nil and the anti-aircraft fire light.

On March 17 Venturas again unloaded bombs on Paramushiro and Shimushu. Liberators hit (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

Simpler Tax Plan Hailed

By FRANCIS M. LE MAY WASHINGTON, March 18 (AP)—The administration and congressional tax leaders, in marked contrast to the bitter outcry over the presidential veto of the \$2,300,000,000 revenue bill, joined enthusiastically today in support of a far-reaching program to simplify the nation's tax laws.

Day Blow Hits Plane Factories

Yank Losses Heaviest Since March 6 Raid LONDON, Sunday, March 19 (AP)—Heavy night raiders of the RAF blasted Frankfurt last night to follow up a mighty daylight blow by nearly 2000 US heavy bombers and long-range fighters against aircraft centers in southern Germany.

The American Flying Fortresses and Liberators hammered Augsburg, Friedrichshafen and other targets and stirred up one of the most savage aerial battles in weeks, losing 43 bombers and 10 fighters.

The brunt of the fighting was borne by the Liberators in their attack upon Friedrichshafen. Swarms of German fighters swept up against the big twin-tailed bombers and fought desperately over Lake Constance. At least 16 of the American planes came down in Switzerland, three in flames.

Escorting Lightnings, Thunderbolts and Mustangs destroyed 39 enemy fighters and the bombers shot down others, although their score had not yet been tabulated.

While reports of the American action still were flowing into headquarters, the RAF's big fleet headed for Europe to keep up the aerial offensive that has lasted continuously for four days. Observers said the roar of the RAF bombers could be heard for an hour as they crossed the channel coast.

Frankfurt, their main objective, is the home of many great factories including aircraft plants and is the center of the German chemical industry.

The city was hit last Tuesday night by RAF Mosquitos. It received its last blow from heavy (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Shock Troops Inch Forward In Cassino

By JOSEPH MORTON ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, March 18 (AP)—Fifth army shock troops inched from stone to stone through the ruined houses of Cassino against Nazi dive-bombers, 170-millimeter cannon and small arms fire today, while allied bombers plastered the German positions around the edge of the Anzio beachhead south of Rome and heavy bombers slashed through enemy fighters to blast five airfields in northern Italy.

The battle of Italy thus was in three major sectors: the grim fight for Cassino and its environs; the hour-by-hour allied bombing of the Germans near Anzio; and the heavy onslaught against Nazi airbases at Udine, Villorba, Maniago, Livarigo and Gorizia in the northeast.

A group of British Gurkhas, (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

George E. Pflug Missing in Action

WOODBURN, March 18—Cpl. George E. Pflug is missing in action since January 31, according to information from the war department received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Pflug. He was a member of US Rangers in Italy and has been missing since his unit was surrounded by the enemy on January 31. He enlisted in 1939 and was in the North African and Sicilian campaigns.

Reports From Six Governors To Decide Service Vote Veto

By JACK BELL WASHINGTON, March 18 (AP)—The decision of a half dozen republican governors of the biggest states on whether they will act to make a federal ballot available to their uniformed citizens overseas may determine President Roosevelt's stand on the service vote bill.

Weather Saturday maximum temperature 68, minimum 33. Precipitation .08 of an inch. Northwest wind. Partly cloudy. River 3 feet.

Price 5c No. 307

German Disaster Mounts

50,000 Nazi Troops Lost In Battles By TOM YARBROUGH LONDON, Sunday, March 19 (AP)—Russian troops spilling through the shattered German Ukraine front have almost completed the destruction of the German sixth army, killing or capturing 50,000 nazis and reaching the Dniester river frontier of pre-war Rumania, and there were indications that the Germans already were evacuating some men from the big Black sea port of Nikolaeve, a Moscow communique disclosed early today.

Balkan reports reaching London by way of Turkey said the massive Russian blow had created powerful repercussions throughout the axis-tied nations of Rumania, Hungary and Bulgaria, and that both the Rumanian and German high commands were rushing reserves to the broad Dniester in an effort to ward off further disaster.

The Turkish dispatches were filed by correspondents in Budapest, Hungarian capital, and said that it was generally felt there that the Russians could not be halted at the Dniester.

The Russians listed 36,800 Germans killed and 13,859 captured in the rout of the Sixth army, reconstructed since its historic capitulation at Stalingrad.

The official British government radio, after announcing the news that the Russians had reached Rumania, broadcast a warning to that axis satellite to get out of the war "at once."

The Russians announced a re-sounding series of successes on all three Ukrainian fronts, from Dubno in pre-war Poland down to the encircled Black sea port of Nikolaeve, in two orders of the day by Marshal Stalin, the regular nightly communique and a special communique issued in rapid succession.

Tonight they were pursuing 40 to 50 German divisions across the muddy Ukraine farm lands.

The victory over the jinxed German Sixth army was one of the most notable of the war, the Russians listing nine German divisions as liquidated, another 50 (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

'Breakthrough' Menaces Jap Burma Supply

By FRANK L. MARTIN HEADQUARTERS, USA AF First Air Commando Unit, India-Burma Front, March 18 (AP)—In the heart of northern Burma, 150 miles behind the Japanese lines, a strong force of British-Indian airborne troops supplied by American glider and air transport units today was exploiting a surprise aerial "breakthrough" that menaces all Japanese north-south supply lines in Burma.

The site of their landing and immediate establishment of an offensive pocket was officially described only as "southeast of Myittha." That north Burma city is the hub of the whole Japanese operation in the area.