

IT SEEMS TO ME
By Charles A. Sprague

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

NINETY-THIRD YEAR 12 PAGES Salem, Oregon, Thursday Morning, March 23, 1944 Price 5c No. 310

Weather
Wednesday maximum temperature 50, minimum 35. Precipitation .04 of an inch. River 5 ft.
Showers Thursday and Friday with snow in mountains. Colder Thursday and Thursday night. Fresh winds north and west portions Thursday.

Soviet Army Rolls Forward in South

Cassino Infantry Slugs On

Allies Using Bush Knives, Flame Throwers

By RICHARD G. MASSOCK
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, March 22—(AP)—Allied infantrymen, fighting with everything from flame throwers to bush knives, advanced slowly tonight against bitter German resistance and severe terrain handicaps in the battle for Cassino and the eastern slopes of Monastery hill.
Field guns supported the foot troops from close range.
The Germans were ejected from several more of the fortified buildings at the southwestern corner of the ruined town and fifth army troops wired and mined the newly captured areas to prevent enemy infiltration.
(North of Cassino, German troops made a sustained, five-hour attack Wednesday morning against allied troops on Castle hill, but were repulsed, the British announced in a broadcast recorded by CBS.
"As the German troops made desperate efforts to climb the hill," it said, "allied rifle and machine-gun fire held them back. At the same time about 20 German fighter planes were sent over to strafe allied rear areas."
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600 US Bombers Again Strike Berlin in Strong Flak; 22 Planes Missing

By W. W. HERCHER
LONDON, Thursday, March 23—(AP)—American heavy bombers, escorted by powerful fighter formations, struck Berlin through heavy flak yesterday, losing 13 bombers and nine fighters, and the RAF followed up with a strong smash at Frankfurt and other German targets in the night.
The Berlin station said in a broadcast shortly after midnight that "strong British bomber formations tonight bombed places in the 'Rhineland.'" This enemy report was promptly confirmed in London, with identification of Frankfurt as the major objective. American heavy bombers had attacked the Frankfurt area Monday.
The American daylight attack yesterday on Berlin was the fifth in 19 days and the heavy bombers were estimated to have dropped 1500 tons of explosives. They encountered no fighter opposition, but the flak was extremely heavy.
Six hundred Fortresses and Liberators participated in yesterday's assault on Berlin. A communique said they were accompanied by "very strong" fighter formations indicating the escort was equal in number to the heavy bombers, or larger, and were estimated at between 750 and 1000.
The RAF night attack on Frankfurt was the 48th raid of the war on the Nazi chemical and engineering center.
A report early today from Stockholm said telephone communication between the Swedish city and Berlin had been broken since the American attack on the Nazi capital.
The assault was by "strong divisions" of Fortresses and Liberators, a communique from US army headquarters announced, adding that the planes "met no opposition from German fighters, although anti-aircraft fire over Berlin was intense."
The lack of aerial resistance was reflected in the announcement which, instead of telling of the shooting down of dozens of Nazi fighters, said only that "one heavy bomber taking off from an airfield was destroyed by our fighters."
Military targets still standing in Berlin as well as factories and transportation facilities in the surrounding area were pounded by the big bombers, although some of the formations were forced to drop their explosives by instrument through thick clouds and could not observe results.
The communique said "very strong forces" of Mustangs, Lightning and Thunderbolt fighters of both the eighth and ninth air forces took part in the raid.
These circled over Berlin for a considerable period, the announcement said, and later left the bombers to search for action
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Bombers Warn Berlin of Raid

LONDON, March 22—(AP)—The American bomber fleet which hit Berlin today flashed a radio warning while en route that the attack was coming and urged citizens to evacuate immediately, the Daily Herald said in a dispatch from Stockholm.
Sixty minutes before the bombers and their fighter escorts reached Berlin, it said, this warning was sent out: "We are coming. Our targets will be in the northern and western districts of Berlin. Evacuate those districts at once."
Every few minutes the warning was repeated, the dispatch said.
It was an invitation too for Nazi fighters to come up and fight, but they stayed on the ground.
A US Bomber Base in Britain, March 22—(AP)—Major James Stewart, film star turned aviator, first visited Berlin today, commanding a Liberator combat wing.
After completing his 11th raid since arriving in the European theatre, Stewart said: "The flak was heavy and fighter support well. I saw a few enemy planes, but they kept their distance."

Postal Rates Go Up Sunday

Increased postal rates affecting almost every branch of the postal service will go into effect Sunday, March 26. The change which will probably affect the largest number of persons is that which increases local letter postage to 3 cents for one ounce, making it the same as for letters other than local.
Domestic air mail rates for one ounce will be increased from six to eight cents. Airmail rates for members of the armed service over seas will remain the same, six cents for every half ounce.
Fees on money orders, insured mail, COD shipments, registered mail, and book postage will also be increased. Return receipts for registered mail will also cost more as will fees for restricted delivery of registered, insured and COD mail.
In announcing the change in postal rates, Henry Crawford, Salem postmaster, suggests that continued separation of local and out of town will speed up deliveries, even though the same rate of postage will prevail.

Train Kills Gordon Kjarr, 17, in Albany

ALBANY, March 22 — Gordon Kjarr, five weeks short of 17 years old, was instantly killed when his old car, driven by George Rhodes, Jr., 16, was hit by a southbound Southern Pacific passenger train at 5 o'clock Wednesday night.
The accident happened in East Albany at the Main street crossing, very close to the Kjarr family home. The completely demolished car was thrown onto the family lot while the boy's body was picked up in pieces.
With Kjarr and Rhodes in the car was Bobby Phelps, 13. Neither Rhodes nor Phelps was seriously injured, although both were taken to the hospital. Rhodes was to return to his home Wednesday night.
Gordon Kjarr was born April 27, 1927, at Westington Springs, SD, and came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peder Kjarr, to Albany in 1936. Besides his parents a sister, Phoebe, survives. The father is employed in the Portland shipyards. The boy attended Albany schools and was a member of the Lutheran church.
This is the third fatal accident at the Albany crossing this year. A man and woman were killed in collision of a car with the southbound Southern Pacific passenger train at 11:40 Saturday morning, January 1. The woman and her mother had picked up a soldier to give him a ride. The collision occurred when the women turned the car off the highway to go into town to the bus depot to let the soldier out.
The death of Sgt. Weiden G. Martin was officially announced in a telegram to his mother, Mrs. Elva G. Martin, from the adjutant general. Martin was listed as missing in action over Germany in a previous communication to the mother. The action in which he died, was on the night of January 28.
Sgt. Martin, born in Brownsville, January 23, 1912, came to Salem with his parents two years later. His father was E. S. Martin, a Salem attorney.
Sgt. Martin attended Salem schools and enlisted in the air forces in May, 1942. He graduated from Harlingen gunnery school in August of that year and has since trained in various air fields here. He went overseas in December of 1943. He was at home on furlough last April.
Martin was an aerial gunner on a heavy bomber.
Survivors besides his mother, Mrs. Elva M. Martin include brothers and sisters, Mrs. Verna Riggs and Mrs. Theda Wells of Salem, Halford Martin, Denzel

Sgt. Weiden Martin's Death Announced, War Department

Nazis Arrest Petiot For Deaths in Paris

MADRID, March 22—(AP)—A German dispatch from Paris said today that Dr. Marcel Petiot had been arrested by French police in a Paris subway station in connection with the death of from nine to 30 persons at his Paris villa. Police have not yet officially announced the arrest, the dispatch said.
FDR's Cold Better
WASHINGTON, March 22—(AP)—President Roosevelt, who has been confined to the living quarters of the White House all week with a head cold, was described by aides tonight as showing continued improvement.
The president, for a third day in a row, however, had no engagements and worked quietly in his study.

Nazi Grip Extends In Balkan

Germans Rush Defense Against Russian Surge

By RICHARD R. KASISCHKE
LONDON, March 22—(AP)—With Hungary occupied and a puppet government established, Germany was reported tonight extending a stranglehold over neighboring satellites in a feverish rush to construct a fortress - within - a - fortress against the Russians' westward surge and other allied threats.
"A general mobilization of all southeastern Europe" was the announced aim. The Germans followed up their plunge into Hungary, where Nazi bayonets executed a Quisling premier to direct a fuller Hungarian part in the German war effort, by penetrating into Bulgaria, Rumania and Slovakia, said dispatches from neutral capitals.
Germany's seizure of once-favored, but often recalcitrant Hungary was officially told by the Berlin radio today, and tonight it declared "German troops are still arriving." The first announcement said the Hungarian government had resigned and that the Nazi forces "arrived in Hungary as the result of a mutual understanding."
The radio tonight said there was no resistance to the occupation, but castigated a "small group of anti-German politicians who provoked a war of nerves."

Neuner Rules Federal Vote Ballot Illegal

The federal soldier ballot, provided in a recent congressional act, is illegal in Oregon because it does not conform to Oregon's election laws, Attorney Gen. George Neuner declared here Wednesday.
Neuner said he would not have a written opinion on the subject.
Gov. Earl Snell, in a telegram to President Roosevelt, Tuesday said the state's existing election laws are sufficient to permit all Oregon soldiers to vote but that the federal ballot was being given further study by the attorney general and state election officials.
In event the state election laws are proved for soldier voting it will be necessary for the federal government to deliver and return the ballots by airplane.
Officials said county clerks could mail the state ballots 45 days before the election.
Some officials suggested a special legislative session to extend the time to 55 days. Gov. Snell said he would call a special session provided such action is necessary to permit Oregon servicemen to vote.

London Again Gets Bombing

By WILLIAM SMITH WHITE
LONDON, March 22—(AP)—German raiders returned to London tonight while the sprawling British capital still was cleaning up the damage caused by the attack of more than 100 Nazi planes early today.
The return visit, however, was of minor consequence and the alert, early in the night, lasted only half an hour.
Flares were dropped in one district of the capital and in southern England, indicating the small-scale effort may have been an armed reconnaissance mission, since the Nazis seldom brave daylight for "spying" on the island.
Only a few of the planes reached the metropolitan section and one was destroyed.
The early morning assault, causing many casualties and fires, was delivered in greater strength than the Nazis had employed last week, but the enemy lost at least ten planes.
London's people dug with quiet urgency into the wreckage for their dead.

Nazi Seize Soviet Embassy in Bulgaria

LONDON, Thursday, March 23—(AP)—The London Daily Mail said in a Madrid dispatch today that German airborne troops had occupied the Soviet embassy in the Bulgarian capital of Sofia and had detained the Russian diplomatic staff.
(Although Bulgaria is at war with Britain and the United States, she is not at war with Soviet Russia and has maintained diplomatic relations with Moscow.)

Hungary's Place In Balkans



German and Rumanian forces (shaded arrows) were reported occupying Hungary, spurred by threatening Russian drives (black arrows) along the battlefield (black line) to the northeast. Shaded border outlines pre-war Hungary, while broken line indicates expanded wartime border. Rail routes make Hungary an important communications key to the Balkan states. (AP Wirephoto)

Churchill Indicates New Atlantic Charter Parley

By JAMES M. LONG
LONDON, March 22—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill, under increasing fire over the Atlantic charter, said today that there must be new consultations on the subject among the big powers.
Although the prime minister did not say what form these new consultations might take, his carefully chosen words left open the possibility of a second Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin meeting.
The statement was made in the house of commons, where some members tried for the second time in two weeks to put the whole question of the Atlantic charter into open debate and to raise the issues of postwar borders.
Churchill made it clear that he regards the charter as a living doctrine which must be adapted and expanded.
"It is evident," Churchill said, "that as the changing phases of the war succeed one another, some further clarifications will be required of the position under the document which has become honorably known as the Atlantic charter, and that this must be a subject for renewed consultation between the principal allies."
"I am not prepared to embark on this subject at question time today further than to state that the Atlantic charter stands as a declaration of the spirit and purpose in which its signatories are waging this war — not without success — and that it implies no pact or bargain with our enemies."
Churchill's statement left no doubt that Russia would be in on the discussions.

Churchill Talk On Air Sunday

LONDON, March 22—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill will deliver a broadcast to Britain Sunday, March 26, at 9 p.m. (1 p.m. Pacific war time), it was announced tonight.
Churchill's talk also will be beamed to America, BBC said.

Jap Columns Penetrate India For 1st Time

By CHARLES A. GRUMICH
NEW DELHI, March 22—(AP)—Japanese columns have made their first penetration of India and are pushing on westward through the Manipur mountain country in the direction of the key road junction of Imphal, 30 miles away.
The Japanese drive into India was announced by allied headquarters today in a communique which stated little except that the enemy "continued to move to the west."
Imphal is the southern terminus of an all-weather road that winds 175 miles north through the Naga hill country to a junction with the India - Assam - China supply line.
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Foe Yields To Flank Offensive

Moscow Silent On Red Drive Told by Nazis

By TOM YARBROUGH
LONDON, Thursday, March 22—(AP)—The red army hurled back the Germans at the southeastern end of the Ukrainian battleline — the Nazis' easternmost extension in Russia — yesterday by capturing the important fortified railway junction of Pervomaik, driving to the approaches of Voznesensk to the southeast and reaching a point eight miles from Nikolayev on the Bug estuary, Moscow announced today.
On the northwestern end of the 500-mile line a fierce pitched battle with fresh German reserves flung in for a counter-attack resulted in the liquidation of detachments of two German guards divisions, the mid-night communique said.
More than 1000 men were killed and many prisoners and much booty captured in the battle, which the Russians located as near Podzamyche, Podzamyche, 13 miles east of Brody in old Poland, was reported captured last Sunday.
The late bulletin, recorded by the Soviet Monitor, said hundreds of Germans were drowned in the Bug river when the Russians, in a two-day battle, cracked carefully erected German defenses around Pervomaik. Moving in from the east and the south the Russians pinned the German garrison against the river and wiped out those who tried to hold on. Much war material and many prisoners were reported taken.
Pervomaik is an important fortified railway junction which has been protecting the German withdrawal from the southern Ukraine.
To the southeast the Russians "engaged the enemy on the approaches of Voznesensk," a station on the Odessa-Cherkassy railway, 85 miles northeast of Odessa. One of the hamlets reported captured was Alexandrovka, nine miles north of Voznesensk.
The Russians closed in on Nikolayev from the north, east and south and had the Nazi defenders pinned back against the wide estuary of the Bug river. Soviet troops pushing up from the south captured the town of Balabanovka, eight miles from Nikolayev's outskirts, it was announced in the Moscow daily communique, recorded by the Soviet Monitor.
The Germans, meanwhile, announced that the Russians had launched a big flanking offensive in the strategic Proskurov-Tarnopol hinge position in the western Ukraine and Poland and had forced the Nazis to fall back before strong infantry and tank blows.
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Allied Bombers Sink Jap Ships At New Guinea

By MURLIN SPENCER
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Southwest Pacific, Thursday, March 23—(AP)—A Japanese destroyer and two small merchantmen have been sunk by allied bombers off Aitape, New Guinea, northwest of Wewak, headquarters announced today.
Aitape is in a sector where considerable enemy shipping has been noted recently, indicating efforts to supply wavering garrisons.
Headquarters also reported another unopposed raid on isolated Rabaul, New Britain, during which 133 tons of explosives were dropped.
In the St. Matthias islands, whose invasion Monday completed the isolation of Rabaul, marines have strengthened their positions at Emirau without encountering any Japanese opposition. Light enemy resistance was overcome in the initial landings.
On the ground front below the Japanese New Guinea coastal base of Madang, headquarters said that Australians in the interior have sent patrols to within seven miles of Bogadjim. Bogadjim is an outpost for the defense of Madang and is located about 20 miles to the south of that base.
To the northwest of Madang large forces of bombers blasted enemy personnel, supplies, barges and guns at Wewak, at Hansa bay
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Military Insists Draft Fill Quota of Young Men

WASHINGTON, March 22—(AP)—Confronted with unfilled draft quotas and a general shortage of ground forces, the army announced today the transfer to ground duty of 36,000 young men who had been earmarked for air training.
Meantime, a high military official reported draft boards had been failing for 13 months to meet the calls of the armed forces, and asserted "the time has arrived when we must have the fighting men we need."
This statement was the latest development in a tug of war between the armed forces and industry and agriculture for the services of thousands of young men under 27. An aviation industry official countered with a claim that blanket cancellations of draft deferments granted the young men would cripple war-necessary airlines.
Plans for congressional inquiries into charges that the draft has been used as a lever to force farmers into the government agriculture program gave the situation a new twist.
The army air forces also announced the suspension of enlistments of 17-year-olds in its enlisted reserve, saying that under the circumstances it is inadvisable to hold a reserve beyond im-

Military Insists Draft Fill Quota of Young Men

mediate requirements. It was announced, however, that air force applications from youths of 17 still will be accepted and training will not stop.
Cumulative shortages since July, the war department said, have made it necessary to use every available man for pending operations. The military official, who declined to permit use of his name, put the draft shortage even further back, saying it had run for 13 months.
General H. H. Arnold, chief of the army air forces, testifying before the house military committee on a bill to give army status to the women's air force service pilots (WAFSP) set the induction deficit at "over 200,000."
The 36,000 released by the air forces are men who have completed basic training in the army and have been accepted for instruction as pilots, navigators and bombardiers.
General George C. Marshall, army chief of staff, explained another factor in the air force cut-back was the fact that American forces are "approaching complete air supremacy in practically every theater in which they are in operation at a much faster pace than the army had dared to hope."
He agreed that air force casualties had been lower than expected.

SGT. WELDEN G. MARTIN