

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles S. Sprague

The action of one of the shipyards in Portland in publicizing its layout of shipyard workers by dropping the early quitters, the loafers and absentees should give one answer to the cry of manpower shortage not by making men available for other jobs but by serving notice on men retained that the day of easy loafing is at an end. This will keep up production because men will not want to be laid off. The effect of Albin's order should be felt all through the war industries of Portland.

It is readily understood that these mushroom industries could not operate as efficiently as long-established, smooth-running plants. There was hoarding of labor, and there was a lot of waste motion and scant production. Yet the record has been one of steady improvement—a reduction in the manhours per vessel, for instance, which is the best gauge of all. As time goes on and production settles into routine, the records of efficiency will be improved.

In all this talk about shipyard labor, however, we must not overlook this simple fact, that ships got built, scores of them, in new yards, with green hands. It truly has been an industrial miracle in which management and men share the credit.

These ships too have done wonders toward winning the war. The liberties carried cargoes of lend-lease to keep the allies fighting, and supplied our own forces at distant bases. The sub-chasers scoured the seas to knock out the subs. The patrol vessels scouted along our coasts to spot the possible approach of the enemy. Portland's contribution to victory in the ships turned out there is quite beyond measure.

And don't forget it was men and women working with tools and machines who put these ships together and sent them down the ways. Some may have been interested only in the wages; but a great army of them had their hearts in the work because they had sons or husbands or other relatives on fighting fronts. Ships meant to them food and munitions for these relatives as well as wages for themselves.

It was work, not idleness which turned out the ships; and the work wasn't done by a lot of the cushion-warming critics who scold at the shipyard workers. The "honeymoon" of lax discipline in the yards may be over, but we mustn't overlook the production record maintained for months in Portland yards.

Two Die When Bus Overtakes Near Azalia

AZALEA, Ore., April 12 (AP)—State police and Greyhound stage lines officials late tonight were still trying to identify the two passengers killed when a California-bound bus overturned today a mile and a half north of here in southwestern Oregon.

Others of the 18 passengers were treated for shock and bruises in Grants Pass and Roseburg hospitals. Of three passengers receiving treatment at Mercy hospital in Roseburg only one, Lois Prevot, Roseburg, had been identified.

Two others, a man and a woman, were unconscious from shock, gasoline burns and exposure to gasoline fumes. Physicians said they believed all would recover. Ray Brown, bus driver, told (Turn to Page 2—Story G)

Black Market May Upset Gas Program

WASHINGTON, April 12 (AP)—Black market operations threaten to upset the entire civilian gasoline distribution program. Interior Secretary Ickes declared today in appealing for the public's aid in combating illicit activities.

The petroleum administrator said the distribution system had "been invaded by the gangster, the racketeer and even the killer." "The government alone cannot stop black market operators," he added. "The real power to halt these organized criminal gangs lies in the hands of the gasoline suppliers, service station attendants and motorists themselves."

The office of price administration has estimated that 2,500,000 gallons are being drained off daily through illegal sales. Deputy PAW Administrator Ralph K. Davies said the best prospect of increasing allocations of automotive gasoline for civilians lies in halting illegal sales. Meanwhile, there was a possibility that congress might undertake a new investigation of gasoline rationing. Rep. Brown (R-Calif) asked for an immediate inquiry, and Chairman Lea (D-Calif) agreed to take up with other members of the house interstate committee the question of a date for hearings.

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851
Salem, Oregon, Thursday Morning, April 13, 1944
NINETY-THIRD YEAR 12 PAGES Price 5c No. 328

Weather
Wednesday maximum temperature 54, minimum 43. Precipitation .15. River 1.9.
Occasional light rains Thursday; partly cloudy with scattered showers Friday; slightly warmer Friday.

Japanese Pressure Eases Up

Entire Nip Force May Be Caught In Gigantic Trap

NEW DELHI, April 12 (AP)—Counter-attacking British and Indian troops have eased Japanese pressure around Kohima in eastern India, it was announced today amid mounting belief that the entire Nipponese force invading India is being caught in a gigantic allied trap and may face eventual extermination.

Allied air-borne forces, swiftly widening their scope of operations in central Burma, were disclosed to be slashing from the rear at Japanese invasion bases along the Chindwin river near the Indian border, the only sources of food and other supplies for Japanese jungle troops now investing the allied Indian bases of Imphal and Kohima and threatening the Bengal-Assam railroad.

The effects of these operations by the allied "Chindits," which include American, British and Indian troops, probably will not be announced for some time, as they are held in the greatest possible secrecy to mystify the Japanese. But they will be felt by the Japanese once their supply bases along the Chindwin become exhausted.

The manner in which the enemy has sent his forces recklessly into India, more or less "orphaning" them, suggests that the entire operation was a gamble by Tokyo on a throw-away basis—an effort to delay allied operations in Burma at whatever cost.

Prior to their new campaign (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

Coroner Jury Praises State Hospital Staff

Oregon state hospital officials and employees were commended by a coroner's jury here Wednesday which investigated the death of Ervin L. Wakefield, hospital patient, during a riot in the criminal insane ward of the institution last Monday.

"The jury finds," their report read, "that Ervin L. Wakefield came to his death on April 10 as the result of a hemorrhage of the brain, induced by a blow on the skull.

"It is our opinion that Dr. John Evans, hospital superintendent, and his staff recommended for their care of the injured persons involved in the attempted break.

"It also is our opinion that Andrew Trimpey, in charge of the criminal insane ward, be commended for bravery in risking his life beyond the requirements of his duties."

Herman M. Johnson was foreman of the coroner's jury. Two other patients and three hospital attendants also received injuries in the riot. Wakefield attacked the attendants with a blackjack, made from a piece of metal wrapped in two pairs of socks.

The riot was subdued after Trimpey struck Wakefield on the head with a piece of wood.

Dewey, Roosevelt Retain Imposing Delegate Lead

By HAROLD OLIVER
Associated Press Staff Writer

US Navy Task Force Hits Japanese at Palau



Japanese ships, caught by a large navy task force during the furthest western raid on March 30, burn after the attack by carrier-based aircraft on the enemy base at Palau, between the Carolines and the Philippines. All Jap craft found at the base were sunk. (AP Wirephoto via signal corps radio)

Hansa Bay Hit Again by Yank Heavy Planes

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Southwest Pacific, Thursday, April 13 (AP)—Escorted heavy bombers followed up Monday's heavy naval and air assault on Hansa bay with a 210-ton bombing the next day, causing considerable damage at that Japanese base on the northeast coast of New Guinea.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur in announcing this latest attack said also that heavy bombers bombed Nomo Island southeast of Truk in the Carolines, and also hit Wewak on New Guinea and badly shattered Rabaul, New Britain.

Wewak and nearby Borom took a 59-ton bombing centered in fuel dumps and anti-aircraft installations. Ten Japanese barges were destroyed north of Dagua in the Wewak sector.

Rabaul's Tobera airstrip and supply areas at Talili bay were (Turn to Page 2—Story H)

Kill Camacho Plot Revealed

MEXICO CITY, April 12 (AP)—Arrest of 13 persons in connection with an investigation of a reported plot against the lives of President Avila Camacho, his brother Gen. Maximino Avila Camacho, and former Presidents Plutarco Elias Calles and Lazaro Cardenas was announced by police tonight.

The alleged plot, however, was not officially linked with Monday's attempted assassination of the president by Lt. Antonio de la Lama Rojas, who died today of a bullet wound inflicted by guards when he attempted to escape.

Five of those arrested were over 60 years old. Two women were among those held. Police said several of those arrested admitted having participated in the conspiracy but denied that it was linked with Monday's assassination attempt.

Finns Agreed In Rejecting Armistice Plan

STOCKHOLM, April 12 (AP)—The Finnish parliament was resolutely reported tonight to have given the government a vote of confidence during the day's second secret session after Premier Edwin Linkomies outlined the cabinet's view of the latest Russian armistice proposals.

By all indications the vote means that Finland again had rejected the Soviet terms. Finnish sources here said that today's secret parliamentary discussions were simply a "repeat performance" of the sessions March 14-15 when Russia's original peace proposals were rejected.

Bombers Deal Blow To Austria

Messerschmitt Factories Given Powerful Blow

LONDON, April 12 (AP)—American 15th air force heavyweights from Italy dealt a thundering blow today at Messerschmitt factories in Wiener-Neustadt, Austria, as bad weather forced Liberators and Fortresses from Britain to turn back after a 72-hour succession of big-bomber attacks against German Europe from the west.

American ninth air force Mustangs and British Mosquitos from Britain assaulted airfields, rail yards and other targets in France and Belgium during the day, however, and hundreds of American Lightnings, Thunderbolts and Mustangs made offensive sweeps against western Germany and Holland.

The Berlin radio broadcast a warning tonight that "enemy planes are over northwest, central and southwest Germany."

German planes caused a one-hour alarm in London and anti-aircraft batteries and searchlights were in action. It was the first alert in the capital since March 31.

It was officially announced that some Liberator and Flying Fortress formations penetrated over the continent from Britain but had to return to their bases as the weather closed in. The Germans named Wiesbaden and Frankfurt as among the localities the big bombers approached, and said (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

German Base Of Gradina Falls To Tito

LONDON, April 12 (AP)—The vital German base of Gradina in central Yugoslavia has fallen to partisan troops, Marshal Josip Broz (Tito) announced today, and heavy assaults are being waged against German communications lines on a long, broken front extending from below Zagreb on the main Balkan railway southward to the Dalmatian coast.

Marshal Tito declared also that fresh German troops were being rushed into Serbia, Bosnia, and Slavonia. Some of these reinforcements were identified as drawn from Hungary.

While fighting was heaviest along Yugoslavia's railways, Tito's communique today, broadcast by the free Yugoslav radio, said severe casualties were inflicted on the enemy garrison in Gradina, including a considerable number of troops who drowned in the Una river while fleeing the city.

The communique's report of sharply increased attrition against the Nazis' greatest single possession in the Balkans—interior lines which they must hold against the threat of allied domination of the Adriatic—indicated the partisan attacks are being synchronized with the allies' intermittent air blows from Italy.

Snell Write-In Campaign May Greet Voters

A number of Oregon republican leaders, according to reports here Wednesday, are exploring the possibilities of a primary election write-in campaign for Governor Earl Snell for president as a means of preventing a coup by so-called Roosevelt republicans to write in the latter's name and obtain both the democratic and republican nominations.

The argument was advanced that Snell, because of his popularity and huge vote at the last general election, probably could attract more republicans to write in his name for president at the primary election than Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York. Governor John Bricker of Ohio, or other persons mentioned up to this time.

Under such a plan, provided Snell received the republican endorsement for president, he could release the Oregon republican delegates to vote for any presidential candidate from the first ballot. Sponsors of the proposals said there is a precedent.

Russian Forces Race 46 Miles In Single Day

3 Red Armies Drive Toward Junction in Fast Crimean Sweep to Sevastopol Goal

LONDON, Thursday, April 13 (AP)—Shattering the second deep zone of German defenses in the Crimea, the red army has raced 46 miles in a single day down the central Crimean railway from the vicinity of Dzhankoi to a point only 11 miles north of Simferopol and 46 miles above Sevastopol, the "sacred goal" of the

three-way offensive to liberate the peninsula, Moscow announced last night.

A simultaneous thrust from the east has cleared the enemy from all the Kerch peninsula, a communique said, and the speed of the Soviet advance indicated that the German and Rumanian forces in the Crimea, failing in repeated attempts to stand, were withdrawing swiftly toward Sevastopol, perhaps to attempt to duplicate the historic defense which the Russians made under siege there in 1942.

On the mainland, the red army, demonstrating its ability to maintain multiple defenses, stormed the Ukraine city of Tiraspol, 33 miles northwest of Odessa, and immediately hurried to the west bank of the Dniestr river; pushed deeper towards the north Rumanian oil fields by capturing Falticeni, hastened the encirclement maneuver against Chisinau in Bessarabia, and squeezed the Skala pocket on the first Ukraine front around a ragged remnant of 10,000 Germans.

From April 1 to 10 the Germans west of Skala lost 25,000 dead and 8988 captured, while Russian (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

Venturas Raid Kurile Islands Again Tuesday

US PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, April 12 (AP)—Paramushiro and Shimushu, Japanese bases in the North Pacific Kurile Islands, were bombed on Tuesday by Ventura search planes of fleet airwing 4, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today.

These raids were the first reported for April, although both fog-shrouded bases were raided six times during March.

On the same day, Adm. Nimitz said in his press release, a single eleventh air force Liberator unloaded bombs at Matsuwa, a Kurile base less than 1000 miles from Tokyo which had been a target for a full-sized Liberator strike the day before.

In the Central Pacific, a fleet airwing search plane bombed Orulok atoll east of Truk in the Carolines, another hit Ulul Island, 150 miles northwest of Truk, and a third dropped incendiary bombs on Ponape, Truk's eastern outpost.

Seventh AAF Mitchells escorted by marine Corsairs also bombed and strafed Ponape in the Carolines, hitting buildings, small craft, the airstrip and the storage area. Anti-aircraft fire was intense.

Three enemy-held Marshall atolls were bombed and strafed by medium bombers, divebombers and fighters.

All planes returned from these operations.

Adm. Nimitz announced earlier that army Liberators had bombed Matsuwa and Onnekotan on Monday. Both islands are slightly south of Paramushiro, Matsuwa being 900 nautical miles from Tokyo.

Ace Missing



Maj. Gerald Johnson (above) of Owenton, Ky., fighter pilot credited with downing 18 enemy planes in the European theatre of operations, has been reported missing in action. (AP Wirephoto)

C of C Likes Manager Plan

Endorsing the charter amendment which, if adopted at the May 19 election, will give Salem a council-manager form of government, Salem chamber of commerce directors Wednesday night announced that an authority on the city manager plan and its operations in other cities would be invited to address an organization luncheon meeting shortly.

The seal of the board's approval was also placed upon the proposed annexation of heavily-populated suburban areas by the city of Salem.

Both modernization of the city's government and extension of its boundaries were planks in what Mayor I. M. Doughton has termed his "post election platform," announced in his first address to the council. The managerial form of government was recommended to the council both by the union chamber of commerce and the special committee appointed by the mayor to study the problem.

Congress Set for Action On Huge Navy Program

WASHINGTON, April 12 (AP)—Congress ended its Easter recess today by setting to work on a record \$32,647,134,336 navy appropriation bill intended to give the world's largest navy the punch for final defeat of Japan and Germany.

Warned by the men who operate the fleet that the end of the war is not in sight, the house appropriations committee acceded to virtually every request for funds and sent to the floor for expected unanimous approval the bill boosting to an estimated \$362,000,000 the nation's war outlay since July 1, 1940.

Only a relatively small amount, \$803,655,164, was trimmed by the committee from budget estimates, with the explanation that the purse strings would be kept open to meet any future requirements. That such needs are by no means unlikely was indicated in testimony by James V. Forrestal, undersecretary of the navy, who told the committee that the appropriations were preliminary to major operations in both Atlantic and Pacific.

He did not say for the record whether he had in mind the invasion of western Europe, but urged that no cuts be made in navy funds "until the middle of this summer." By the end of that 90-day period, he said, the major event he had in mind "will, I think, have occurred."

Are You Registered?

If you are a newcomer to Marion County . . . If you failed to vote at the last general election . . . If you have moved into another precinct . . .

You Must Register to vote at the Primaries May 19th. Registration Books Close April 18th