

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sprague

OPA has moved, though a bit tardily, to relax materially the restrictions on meat consumption.

The announcement says that smaller quantities are being taken under lend-lease.

New Draft Bill Draws Support Of Officials

WASHINGTON, May 4 (AP)—A "work or be drafted" bill designed to force 4-F's and men between 38 and 45 into war or essential civilian jobs drew the united support of selective service and military officials today at a senate military committee session.

While Chairman Reynolds (D-NC) told reporters he did not know whether there would be stronger committee support for it than for the Austin-Wadsworth national service law which has been under the committee's jurisdiction for 18 months, house military committee members gave it warm endorsement.

The measure, which Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, director of selective service; Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson, and Assistant Navy Secretary Ralph Bard all endorsed, would authorize induction of any draft registrant between 18 and 45 into the military service or labor battalions if he shifted from an essential to a non-essential job without draft board permission.

Any 4-F capable of performing necessary work could be drafted for essential work, and any man aged 38 to 45 if unemployed or working in non-essential industry.

Bard estimated that "there are in the neighborhood of 1,000,000 men, who have been classified as 4-F's who are not engaged in essential war work."

He added that he was told by the war manpower commission that when the induction of all men over 26 was stayed, there was a sharp increase in the number of 4-F's going into non-essential industry.

God Has Stake In War Say Methodists

KANSAS CITY, May 4 (AP)—Methodists voted today to support the war because "God himself has a stake in the struggle."

The resolution, adopted after lengthy debate by the first general conference since Pearl Harbor, said in part:

"God himself has a part in the struggle. We repudiate the theory that a state, even though imperfect in itself, must not fight against intolerable wrongs."

The action repudiates the church's stand taken in 1940, which said the church would "not officially endorse, support or participate in war."

The vote was 373 to 300. The clergy was divided almost evenly, favoring the resolution 170 to 169. The lay vote was 203 to 131.

Today's decision was reached after more than five hours of oratory and more than 30 speeches. So hot was the debate that at times more than a dozen delegates were on their feet shouting "Mr. Chairman."

Charles C. Farlin, Englewood, N.J. lawyer, led the successful fight for a committee minority report.

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

Salem, Oregon, Friday Morning, May 5, 1944

NINETY-THIRD YEAR

Price 5c

No. 937

Weather Maximum temperature Thursday 84 degrees; minimum 45; no precipitation; river 1.5 ft. Fair Friday and Saturday; slightly cooler Friday except extreme east portion.

Aerial Invasion Roars On

Fortresses Hit Dutch Airdrome In Heavy Blow

LONDON, May 4 (AP)—American Flying Fortresses delivered a sharp attack on a Nazi airdrome in Holland today, highlighting the 20th straight day of the allied aerial offensive—a day in which 1750 bombers striking from Britain and Italy by night and day dropped 6000 tons of explosives on Hitler's Europe.

LONDON, May 5 (AP)—Large formations of allied raiders headed out across Dover strait shortly after daybreak today to maintain the non-stop aerial offensive against fortress Europe.

American Marauders and Havoc light bombers and RAF Mitchells struck a wide variety of supply depots and military installations in northern France by daylight and American Mustangs conducted an offensive sweep over Brunswick, Germany.

All the Fortresses, about 250 in number, returned safely, as did the medium and light bombers. Their fighter escort lost three planes and downed nine Nazis, while the fighters over Germany shot down the only German plane sighted.

The RAF sent out a fleet of 750 heavy bombers in a series of early-morning moonlight raids on France and Ludwigshaven, Germany, losing 49, (Turn to Page 2—Story G)

Red Bombers Pound Nazis In Sevastopol

LONDON, May 4 (AP)—A merciless night attack by Russian bombers on the German-Romanian garrison jammed into surrounded Sevastopol was announced tonight by a soviet communiqué which said bombing and strafing silenced many enemy batteries, started at least ten large fires and caused many explosions.

Soviet troops have ringed about the Crimean port for two weeks but have held off from a frontal assault, apparently to conserve manpower.

The blows by soviet planes, all of which were listed as returning to base, might mean the infantry was nearly ready to plunge in for the kill against the thousands of the enemy garrison.

No essential changes on the long land fronts were reported by the communiqué, broadcast from Moscow and recorded here by the soviet monitor. It said 47 German tanks were destroyed or disabled yesterday.

Red Star, official army newspaper, reported numerous Russian units had penetrated deep into the foothills of the Carpathian mountains and begun sharp attacks through the forests against separate enemy positions, since the front there does not consist of a continuous trench line. The exact location was not given but it apparently was somewhere in the mountainous corner where the borders of Czechoslovakia, old Poland, Hungary and Romania converge.

Freak Weather Hits US With Snow in Midwest

By the Associated Press The weather blew hot and cold along with snow and floods in a freak display across the United States yesterday.

New York City experienced its hottest May 4 with a temperature of 83.4 degrees while a heat wave on the west coast sent the thermometer up to 90 in Los Angeles and 84, a record for the date, at Oakland, Calif.

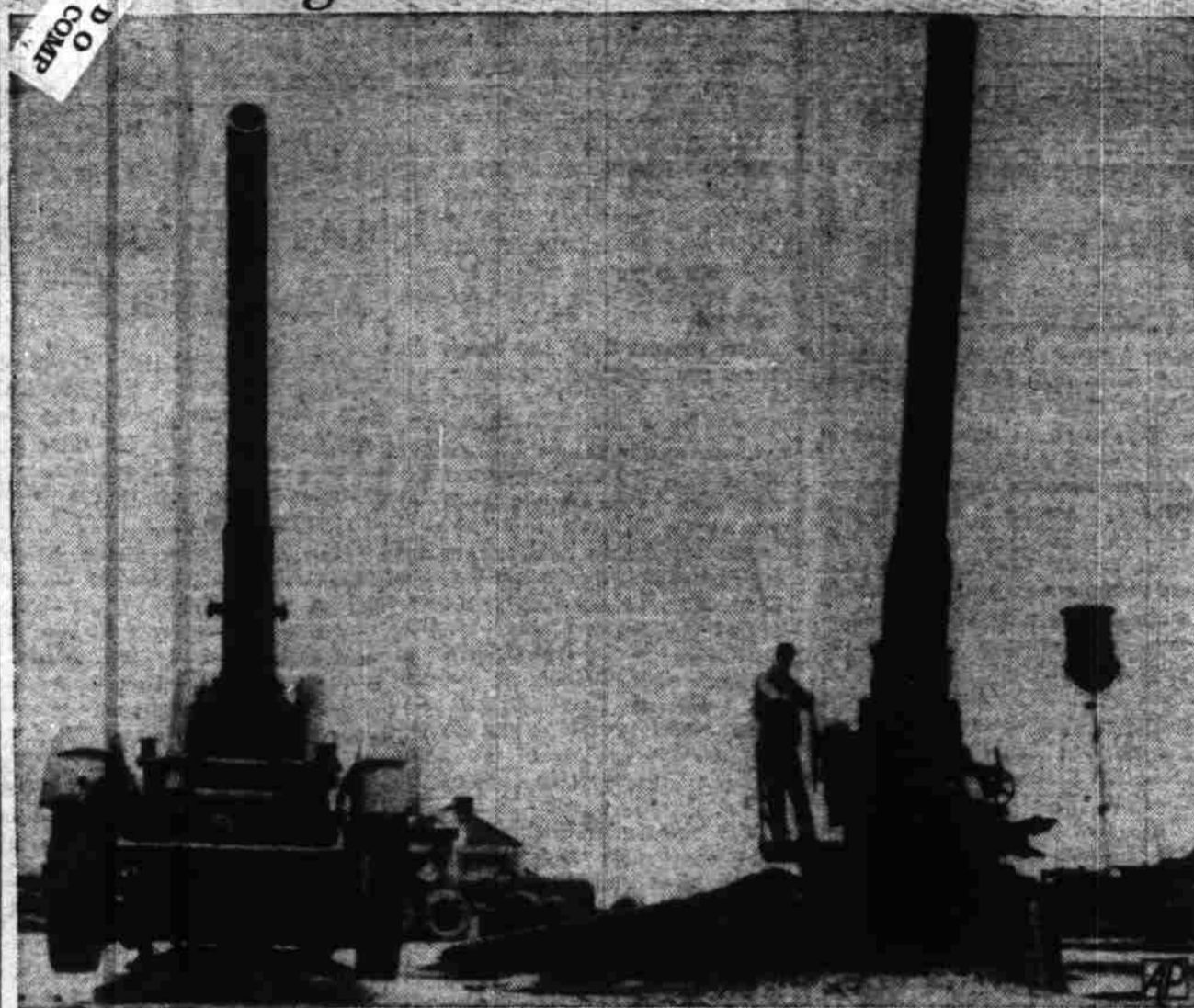
But in between, a heavy snow fell in the Red River valley of North Dakota with a 45-mile-an-hour wind and a temperature of 25 above zero.

South Dakota and Minnesota also had wintry weather.

The lower Midwest was unseasonably cool, with frost forecast in lowlands of the Kansas City vicinity.

Many acres along the Mississippi river were flooded although the water had receded.

Big Duelists of the Battlefronts



Left to right are a German 170mm mobile gun and an American 8 inch (200mm) mobile artillery piece on display at the army ordnance proving ground at Aberdeen, Md. The American gun fires a projectile nearly twice as heavy as that fired by the German weapon and its range is greater by more than two miles. (AP Wirephoto from UU army)

FBI Agents Arrest Germany Ward Poster Taker

CHICAGO, May 4 (AP)—FBI agents arrested an official of Montgomery Ward and Company today as he was removing a government poster in one of the firm's Chicago plants that have been under federal control for eight days.

The official, Paul D. Sowell, assistant mail order operating manager of the concern, told reporters he saw the poster—a mimeographed notice that no workers were to be dismissed without the approval of the federal operating manager—and ascertained that it dealt with employee-management relations. He added:

"Rather than stand in the hall reading it, I was removing the thumb tacks in order to take the poster into my office and read it in its entirety, and abide by it, of course. After all, I have quite a few employees under my direction."

Sowell was taken into custody by the agents, who reported Richard Hosteny, acting chief of the federal bureau of investigation here, were stationed at the war facilities "at the direction of Attorney General Francis Biddle."

Hosteny said Sowell was not handcuffed when he was taken from the building. He was brought to the US district attorney's office, and then to the US marshal's office. His attorney, James C. Leaton, said he was fingerprinted there "before service of any warrant."

Sowell was handcuffed as he was escorted from the marshal's quarters to the court of US Commissioner Edwin K. Walker in the same building. He was arraigned (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

Berlin Says Allied Planes Bomb Rome

LONDON, Friday, May 5 (AP) The Berlin radio declared today that several waves of American bombers attacked the outskirts of Rome yesterday.

The city had five alerts—one lasting two hours, said the broadcast.

There was no immediate confirmation from allied authorities, but railroads in the Rome area frequently have been the targets of allied raiders.

Germany Weakens

WASHINGTON, May 4 (AP)—German fighter plane strength and replacement ability has been whittled down so far, Secretary Stimson said today, that the enemy is now relying chiefly on anti-aircraft batteries for defense against large formations of American bombers.

In a news conference discussion, the war secretary also expressed the opinion that damage already done to German transportation facilities is beyond the Nazis' ability to repair. Such communications are a vital spot in the German defenses. The enemy must maintain them insofar as possible for movement of armies and supplies to combat any allied invasion.

In order to conserve their remaining pursuit planes, Stimson said, the Nazis send them mainly against small groups of bombers or crippled or straggling planes. As a result, he said, American bomber formations now return (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

Yanks to Have Best Ordnance For Invasion

LONDON, May 4 (AP)—American troops storming into Europe will have newly developed ordnance, "the finest artillery, small arms with performance better than anything the enemy has used and ammunition with higher explosive charges," Brig. Gen. Henry Saylor said today.

He is chief ordnance officer of the US army in the European theater. "If you want to call those secret weapons, you can," he said, adding, "a good deal of our ordnance has been improved also. These improvements combine the best features of our own weapons and those captured from the enemy." Saylor, in a report published in the army newspaper Stars and Stripes, emphasized it was "no pep talk to boost morale," and declared that soldiers standing ready for action had a right to (Turn to Page 2—Story C)

Food Supply May Not Last

WASHINGTON, May 4 (AP)—The war food administrator, Marvin Jones, cautioned consumers tonight that the liberalization of food rationing may be temporary only, declaring that "because we have plenty now, it does not necessarily follow that we will have plenty later."

"Too many are prone to take a food supply for granted," he said in a formal statement citing production difficulties confronting farmers during the coming crop season. "It will be even harder to meet our needs this year than it was last year."

Jones said nevertheless it was possible to offer more liberal supplies to consumers now because recent farm production was "above schedule." Although he did not mention them, shortages of shipping space for moving lend-lease food overseas and a lack of storage space in this country were given by other food officials as being among the reasons for liberalization of rations at this time.

Dione Doyle Heads Silverton High Class

SILVERTON, May 4—Dione Doyle, daughter of Mrs. Ida Doyle, has been made valedictorian of the Silverton high school graduating class. Louise Ryan is a junior in the class, which is composed of 71 members who will be graduated.

Commencement will be held May 31 with James Millar, field director of the board of Christian education of the Presbyterian church of America, as the speaker.

Japanese Repelled In Burma

Invaders Suffer Many Casualties Without Success

SOUTHEAST ASIA HEADQUARTERS, Kandy, Ceylon, May 4 (AP)—Attacking Japanese troops have been thrown back with casualties both in northern Burma and near the allied base of Kohima in India, it was announced today in a brief communique from Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten's headquarters.

The bulletin said there had been no important change in the fighting around Imphal, 68 miles south of Kohima, and for the first time in several days did not mention the Falel sector, where on Monday the Japanese were reported massing for an all-out attack on Imphal, 28 miles to the north.

(A Tokyo news broadcast said that Japanese troops were "closing on Falel and steadily tightening their iron cordon around enemy forces entrenched in Imphal." It estimated the strength of British and Indian forces defending Imphal at nearly 10 divisions. A broadcast claim by the Berlin radio on Wednesday that the allies had evacuated Imphal was not repeated.)

Dispatches indicated that the Imphal fighting was going steadily in favor of counter-attacking allied troops, whose advanced units were said to be near the edge of the open country north of Imphal. The highway between Imphal and Kohima, however, still was blocked by the Japanese.

Fluid fighting was reported in the mountainous Kohima area. The Japanese for several weeks have held Kohima village—the (Turn to Page 2—Story F)

Most of China Key Rail Line Falls to Japs

CHUNGKING, May 4 (AP)—Japanese invaders in a multi-pronged offensive in Honan province have seized all but 60 miles of the Peiping-Hankow railway, the Chinese high command indicated tonight.

The enemy is driving down and up the rail route, where only a few weeks ago the Chinese had possession of a 175-mile stretch from Chenghsien south to Sinyang.

Advancing 23 miles northward from Sinyang, one Japanese force has occupied Minkiang, and another swept on to attack Kiohsan, 45 miles north of Sinyang, a communiqué said.

Japanese forces advancing southward are menacing Yen-cheng, 90 miles below Japanese-held Chenghsien, but the bulletin said this column had been stopped in bitter fighting. Only 60 miles of the rail line still are held by the Chinese, from the Yen-cheng area south to Kiohsan.

At latest reports the Chinese still were holding out at Heuchang, along the railway 50 miles below Chenghsien.

The Japanese appeared to be taking special pains to protect themselves from flank attacks by branching out on both sides of the railway, especially to the west.

May Weekend Festivities Open This Morning

May weekend festivities will open today at Willamette university at 11 a. m. with a special student chapel. Main event of the chapel will be the inter-society singing competition under the direction of Seaman Charles Strong.

The annual freshman-sophomore tug of war will be held following the program on the Sweetland field mall race. Another contest between the two classes will be held at noon and will be the grassed polo climb.

Although the inter-society singing contest is an innovation this year, interest has run high and the event promises to be one of the biggest of the weekend. The winning group will be announced by Queen Marjory Maulding at coronation ceremonies Saturday.

The traditional campus cleanup which was held on the Friday of May weekend in past years will not be held this year due to difficulty in arranging schedules. In-

Admiral Koga, Jap Leader, Dies in Action

NEW YORK, May 5 (AP)—Admiral Koga, Commander-in-chief of the Japanese combined fleet, has been killed in action, the Tokyo radio announced today in a broadcast recorded by US government monitors.

The broadcast quoted an imperial headquarters communique as saying that Koga had "died at his post in March of this year while directing general operations from an airplane at the front." No further details were given.

Admiral Somen Toyoda, commander of the Yokosuka naval base, has been named to succeed Koga and "already is in command of the combined fleet," Tokyo said.

The broadcast added that Admiral Zengo Yoshida, who previously had been in command of the Japanese fleet in Chinese waters, had been appointed commander of the Yokosuka naval station.

Goebbels Tries To Soothe Nazi Frayed Nerves

LONDON, May 4 (AP)—Nazi Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels fed the Germans soothing syrup for their nerves today with the promise of "trump cards up our sleeves when the invasion strikes."

"There exist innumerable defense measures and weapons so far unknown," Goebbels wrote in an article in this week's edition of the German magazine "Das Reich," broadcast over the German radio.

Reports from other sections of Europe showed the anxiety of the Germans, now living in anticipation of early allied multiple land blows.

The Ankara radio said "The empire premiers' agreement on invasion plans" brings the blow "even nearer." Reports from the Norwegian underground said the Germans are bolstering the far north defenses with troops tested in Russia. The Belgian underground revealed new Gestapo roundups, and the Germans, themselves, forecast that "Alexander will strike shortly on the Italian front."

"We know the enemy's preparations for invasion are practically completed," Goebbels wrote, "but (Turn to Page 2—Story E)

AFL Demands PWA Program

PHILADELPHIA, May 4 (AP)—The AFL executive council called today for immediate action on a housing and public works program to tide the country over the critical period between the abrupt cancellation of war contracts and the reconversion of industry.

Pointing out that the construction needs "no elaborate reconversion," the council proposed immediate conferences of industry, labor, and the government to determine the scope of the program, its timing and financing, the acquisition of land and flow of materials, establishment of demarcation lines to indicate the field for private industry and private financing, acceptance by state and local governments of the responsibility for financing public works as far as possible without federal aid, and formulation of clear understandings between management and labor.

N.C. Democrats Favor Fourth Term for FDR

By the Associated Press North Carolina democrats endorsed a fourth term for President Roosevelt yesterday and lined up 30 more national convention delegates behind him.

This brought to 410 the number of delegates already pledged or claimed for Mr. Roosevelt out of 510 thus far selected. It required 589 to nominate—one more than half the 1176 convention votes.

The 410 figure excludes four prospective Florida delegates who are pledged to Sen. Harry E. Byrd of Virginia but whose votes may go to Mr. Roosevelt under the unit system.

Florida democratic party rules require that the state's 18 national convention votes must be cast as a unit if two-thirds of the delegates agree on a candidate.

The debate returns cut into Sen. Claude Pepper's lead over four opponents, but it still appeared probable he would win renomination and avoid a run-off primary.

US Makes Two New Landings

Yanks Extending Guinea Holdings Near Hollandia

By the Associated Press American sixth army troops made two new landings on Dutch New Guinea to consolidate and extend their holdings in the Hollandia area, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today.

The new landings were made by the same forces that less than two weeks ago swept 500 miles up the New Guinea coast to seize the Hollandia sector and its four airdromes, within bombing range of the Philippines.

One force landed at Demia, extending American control of the coast 16 miles deeper into Japanese occupied territory. The other splashed ashore on Torare bay, 12 miles from the town of Hollandia and midway between the original invasion points.

Protecting the seaborne infantrymen, allied bombers heavily blasted the Wakde airdrome, nearest Japanese base still in operation.

Other heavy bombers smashed at Wewak by - passed New Guinea air base, and Timor in the Dutch East Indies, while other air sweeps and motor torpedo boat patrols accounted for one enemy ship, three planes and nine barges.

Emphasizing the increasing American threat to Japanese conquerors in the Philippines, Mitchell bombers from China have sunk an enemy ship in Amoy harbor, 450 miles northwest of the Philippines.

Land Bombers Pour 50 Tons On Japs' Truk

US PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, May 4 (AP)—Far-flying army Liberator bombers followed up the mauling of Truk by carrier task forces with one of the heaviest land-based aerial attacks on the ripped Japanese bastion in the central Pacific, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today.

Seventh army air force fliers poured 50 tons of bombs on air strips and adjacent installations in a raid Monday night and early Tuesday morning before the defending garrison had a chance to recover from the 800-ton assault by Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's carrier planes last Saturday and Sunday.

Fires and large explosions were seen in the Truk installations. As evidence of the American success in undermining Truk's defense system, Nimitz said anti-aircraft fire encountered in the latest raid was "moderate." Two enemy night fighters were in the air but did not fight.

In other central Pacific aerial sweeps, a single Liberator swooped down on Ponape Monday night, setting a fire in Ponape town. Isolated enemy positions in the Marshall islands were bombed and strafed Monday and Tuesday.

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