

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles H. Drake

This is primary election day. The political campaigning is over. The barrage of oratory is stilled; the shower of cards and circulars and letters is ended. Now the voters, who are the ultimate jury, will have the decision.

It is timely on this election morning to urge that people discharge their duty as citizens and cast their ballots. After all the right of the ballot is a precious one which should not grow rusty through disuse. Universal suffrage is a relatively late attainment, national woman's suffrage being less than 25 years old. When one thinks of the hue and cry that would be raised if people were denied the right to vote, one wonders why many people are indifferent to voting when election days do come around.

It is true that except perhaps in some of the southern states more people vote at the general election than in primaries, yet it is a fact that often the decisions of the primaries are the more important. For in the primaries the initial selections of nominees is made, and very often they are the critical decisions, the final elections offering little choice.

The prediction of a relatively light ballot today will probably be borne out in the tally, because many soldiers will not get their ballots in and many voters have been shifting about more than is normally the case. That should make those at home feel under greater obligation to turn out and vote, performing the duties of citizenship (continued on editorial page)

Work or Fight Bill Demanded By War Heads

WASHINGTON, May 18 (AP)—The nation is confronted by critical and ever "desperate" labor shortages, the government's top war production experts told the senate military committee today in urging action—quick—on "work or fight" legislation.

War Production Chairman Donald M. Nelson, calling for "relief now," said labor in foundries is so scarce as to endanger production of airplanes and landing craft. In the critical class he listed forgings, ball bearings, lumber and textiles. He figured 300,000 to 400,000 additional workers are needed.

Nelson, Acting Navy Secretary James V. Forrestal, and Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson testified for a measure which would permit the drafting of

Men 18 to 45 into military or work units if they quit or refused farm or essential industry jobs without authorization of draft boards.

Men physically unfit for military service into work units, unless they obtained war jobs. (Turn to Page 2—Story B)

2 Salem Men Get IOOF State Jobs

PORTLAND, May 18 (AP)—Ralph L. Russell, Roseburg, was named grand master of the IOOF grand lodge of Oregon here today. Other grand officers elected were:

A. J. Leon, Portland, deputy master; Dr. Earl J. Ivie, Hood River, warden; William A. Morand, secretary; Dr. J. H. Nelson, McMinnville, treasurer; Ralph Oswald, Hillsboro, trustee; E. M. Bowman, Portland, trustee; F. E. Foster, Portland, and Marion Curry, Salem, trustees of the IOOF here. Grant Murphy, Salem, and Ray W. Comstock, Baker, were elected representatives to the sovereign lodge.

Your Party?

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★ ★ ★

OUR PARTY

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Weather
Maximum temperature Thursday 63 degrees; minimum 42. Trace of precipitation. River -1.
Cloudy with showers on the coast and in the mountains Friday; fair Friday night and Saturday except cloudy along the coast; little change in temperature.

Allies Announce Cassino Capture

Formia Also Falls; American Troops Rip Into Hitler Line Only 35 Miles From Anzio

By D. KENNEDY
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, May 18. (AP)—Cassino and Formia, twin anchor of the German defense belt across central Italy, have fallen to the great allied offensive which began a week ago. The German line tonight at a point only 35 miles from the Anzio beachhead and 85 miles from Rome.

British and Polish troops stormed the shattered town of Cassino and dominating Monastery hill behind it early today, capturing 1,500 prisoners and wiping out the cream of the "Green Devils" first parachute division which had defended the stronghold fanatically since January.

Shortly before sundown tonight a small group of British and Polish officers walked up a 30-foot heap of rubble and planted the flags of their countries atop the ruins of the Benedictine monastery, in which the nazis held out so long.

American troops captured Formia—believed to be the coastal anchor of the Adolf Hitler line—and from nearby hills American big guns opened a heavy bombardment of Gaeta point, three and a half miles across a water from Formia. Masses of abandoned Nazi equipment were falling to Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's forces.

"The Gustav line now has ceased to exist," declared an allied announcement. "The enemy has been completely outmaneuvered by the allied armies in Italy... troops of the eighth army have fought their way forward in the Liri valley and during the last 24 hours developed a decisive pincer movement which cut highway 6 (leading from Cassino to Rome) and so prevented the withdrawal of the enemy."

The bag of German prisoners mounted to more than 6000 since the drive to destroy the enemy's forces in Italy began. Mountains of Nazi equipment were strewn across the battlefields in the wake of the swiftly advancing allied armies. Clark's fifth army alone had captured materiel equivalent to two artillery divisions—much of it in perfect condition—in advancing up to 15 miles from its starting point.

French colonials in the center of 25-mile battle line captured Esperia, a fortified outpost of the Hitler line, and seized Monte Lago, a mile to the west. Just north of Esperia they were engaged in a bitter fight for 2800-foot Monte D'Orso, and from heights their artillery was shelling the lateral highway between Pico and Itri.

Martial Law Put in Effect At Istanbul

LONDON, May 18 (AP)—Martial law was imposed at Istanbul today because of unconstitutional activities of the Turkish pro-Nazi organization, "Pan-Turanian," which caused public demonstrations, said an Ankara broadcast tonight recorded by the British ministry of information.

The radio said a number of Pan-Turanian leaders had been arrested and charged with "activities against the constitution." It was declared that the Pan-Turanian "made use of ciphers and codes in communications with its members."

"While there is yet no direct proof they are working under direct control of a foreign power," the broadcast said, "indications are the organization was a pro-German one based on racialism and fascist principles."

The radio said Pan-Turanian leaders lately had been "building up a nation-wide organization, preparing plans and signing agreements aimed at overthrow of the present regime" in neutral Turkey.

It added the army had made several raids at Istanbul and Ankara on premises occupied by Mihai Abdul, a newspaper owner, and had seized documents disclosing the organization's ramifications and activities.

A dispatch from Ankara yesterday disclosed that a considerable number of arrests had been made quietly throughout Turkey in an effort to break up an allegedly Nazi-financed society known as the "Gray Wolf." Authorities said it was stirring up trouble among students and others.

Army's 'Stratosphere' Gun



This first picture to be released of the US army's new "stratosphere" gun has the crew in action reloading the weapon, which is in recoil position after firing. One of the most powerful new American weapons, the 120mm (4.7 inch) anti-aircraft gun fires a projectile into the stratosphere 20,000 feet higher than any other anti-aircraft weapon's range, says the army, and is used against highest-flying bombers. (AP Wirephoto from US army)

Nazi E-Boats Find Allies Rule Channel

LONDON, May 18. (AP)—The Germans have flung out their outposts against invasion—almost nightly patrols by E-boats and bombers which the Germans reported this week were ranging the channel and 500 miles of the English south coast from the Thames estuary westward around to Bristol.

However, evident their purpose in feeling out the channel darkness these moonless nights, the E-boats even by German accounts are finding that the allies have control of this naval no-man's-land as they rule the skies over the Nazi west wall.

The official German account of an E-boat patrol last night reported repeated clashes with British destroyers and motor torpedo boats. The only locality mentioned for such encounters was off Le Treport, which is near Dieppe, and thus the British evidently penetrated much nearer the coast of France than the Germans did to England's south coast.

While London, once the German air force's number one target, has remained raid-free, the Germans struck twice in force this week against Britain's south coast. They identified their targets as Portsmouth and the Bristol channel.

The latter area on the southern end of the British west coast has been mentioned by the uncontrolled radios at the missing point for an American invasion armada.

Britain meanwhile moved methodically toward attack under steadily deepened secrecy. The house of commons met in secret to consider the dates of its next sitting. In a London court the first fines were imposed for violations of the closed coastal belt, two women paying eight dollars each for visiting Brighton, in the south coast protected area, without authorization.

A change in restrictions permits daily disclosure of channel weather now. A chill northeast wind stirred moderate seas in the Dover strait today. The sun broke through during the morning for a brief spell, but the sky generally was overcast with heavy banks of rain clouds toward the French coast.

National Political Spotlight Focuses On Oregon's Primary Election Today

By HAROLD D. OLIVER
Dewey—for president supporters looked to the last 1944 presidential preference primary—in Oregon today—and an Alabama convention for more delegates to increase the constantly rising support for the New York governor for the GOP presidential nomination.

Oregon also will elect candidates for two US senate and four house seats.
Gov. Dewey now has 321 pledged and claimed delegates out of 895 so far selected of the republican national convention's allotted 1029 votes. A majority—539—is necessary for a nomination.

Oregon will elect 15 republican delegates since there are no entries on the republican preferential ballot—Wendell Wilkie withdrew and Gov. Dewey asked that

his name be left off—the delegates will go to the winner of the write-in vote. Dewey, Wilkie, and Lt. Comdr. Harold E. Stassen were forecast as favorites in the balloting.

It will be Dewey's second test among northwest republicans, conceded a Wilkie stronghold before the Wisconsin primary prompted the 1940 GOP nominee to take himself out of the race. On May 6 Washington state republicans unanimously endorsed Dewey, but left their 16 delegates uncommitted in case they want to give a first ballot complimentary vote to Eric Johnston, of Spokane, president of the US chamber of commerce.

Allies Score Twin Victory Over Japs

Ploesti Gets New Pounding Merrill's Men Grab Key Burma Airfield; Yanks Take Wakde

By RAY CRONIN
Associated Press War Editor
The war against Japan moved at speedier tempo yesterday as allied forces gained major victories in Burma and the southwest Pacific.

A master military stroke in Burma, carried out by Chinese and American forces under an American general, gravely menaced the entire Japanese position in the northern part of that country.

In the southwest Pacific Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur's Sixth army seized the airbase island of Wakde, just off the north coast of Dutch New Guinea. Air, rocket and naval bombardment covered the invaders. The Japanese offered only moderate resistance. General MacArthur said success of the operation "presages reconquest" of all of Dutch New Guinea.

Collapse of the Japanese in the Burma region was anticipated. Chinese and American jungle fighting infantrymen executed the brilliant surprise move from the south, behind Nippon lines, to seize Myitkya's southern airfield. Immediately the strategic city, key Japanese communications and supply center, was brought under allied artillery pounding.

In China's Honan province, far to the north, the Chinese as late as last Monday were clinging tenaciously to Loyang despite terrific Japanese shelling, while the two-pronged Nippon armored offensive left an escape gap of only 25 miles for the defending forces in the Loyang sector. American and Chinese airmen were bombing (Turn to Page 2—Story D)

US PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, May 18 (AP)—Far-reaching American warplanes pounded Wake island in a daylight raid and probably sank two sizeable Japanese ships in Truk harbor, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today.

Heavy Liberator bombers of the Seventh army air force, blistering Wake for the first time since May 9, set a large fire. Objectives were Peacock point and Wilkes island. Moderate ground fire did minor damage to two American planes. Wake was captured by the Japanese early in the war.

A navy search plane flew through light anti-aircraft fire to bomb and probably sink a 10,000-ton enemy tanker and a medium cargo ship in Truk's harbor in the Caroline islands.

The same plane flew 200 miles west to Puluwast island where it strafed and bombed the air strip and barracks area. Both the pilot and co-pilot were wounded there by ground fire.

Mitchell medium bombers of the Seventh AAF and navy search planes blasted the seaplane base, air fields and dock installations on Ponape in the Carolines. The town of Ponape also was hit. Meager ground fire was encountered.

Sick Marine Kills 8 Japs Singlehanded

By HOWARD W. BLAKESLEE
Associated Press Science Director
PHILADELPHIA, May 18 (AP)—The story of a sick marine who killed eight Japs singlehanded at midnight was reported to the American Psychiatric Association today by Commander Dana L. Farnsworth and Lt. Commander Robert S. Wigton, of an unidentified south Pacific hospital ship.

"His story," they said, "was not considered by him as extraordinary. With a few others he had been manning a machine gun on the flank, when they were rushed from several directions just after midnight.

"Eight came toward him. He dispatched 5 with rifle fire, bayoneted the sixth. Then his bayonet came loose and he fought the seventh to death with the butt of his gun.

"By this time the eighth, an officer, was upon him and lunged with his saber. The marine raised his leg and caught the thrust in his thigh and was thrown to the ground.

"The Jap took a swinging stroke at his neck and the marine warded it off with the outer part of his right hand. A similar stroke from the left he caught between left thumb and hand, grappled the sword away from the Jap and dispatched him with the weapon.

"He suggested apologetically that he should have done that in the first place instead of catching the first one with the outer part of his right hand.

"As an after-thought he added that he was supposed to tell us that he had malaria. He had chills and fever every other day for 10 days prior to this incident. It occurred to us to wonder what he would have done had he been a well man."

The psychiatrist reported this as an example of the way nearly all men in the Pacific belittle their own achievements.

P-39 Plane Crashes South of Sherwood

PORTLAND, Ore., May 18 (AP)—A P-39 fighter plane from the Portland air base crashed a mile south of Sherwood, Ore., tonight, but the pilot parachuted out, escaping with a sprained ankle, the base operations office said.

Second Lt. James W. Chadbourne, whose home address was not immediately learned, the pilot reported the plane had motor trouble and crashed in an open field.

Albina Shipyard Band Wins High Award

PORTLAND, May 18 (AP)—The Albina Shipyard band, the "Albina Helldivers" today received the Music War Council of America's distinguished service award. The band was the only industrial musical group west of Chicago to be so honored.

(Turn to Page 2—Story A)