

## Blast Death Toll Reaches Close to 350

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bers of the crews of the two ships lost their lives. A number of civilian workers on the docks were killed. The navy said that "at least 200 to 250" of its loading crewmen died. The list of injured may reach 1000, including those hurt by flying glass.

Happens at 10:19

It was 10:19 o'clock last night when ruin came to the waterfront. The freighter Bryan, carrying thousands of tons of explosives, disintegrated in billowing clouds of red and white flame.

The great blast flattened everything around. As the reverberations swept across the water, the victory ship Quinault exploded with a thunder that shook the hills.

Navy barracks were flattened. Wires, trees, poles, marsh grass—everything, was borne to earth. The pier from which loading operations were being carried on simply disappeared. Two small coast guard boats were crushed and five coast guardsmen are missing.

Nearly every window in Port Chicago was smashed, and some were broken in Vacaville, about 50 miles away.

## Ship Built in Portland

The Quinault, built in Portland, had been in service one week to the day before it was demolished into pieces the size of shell fragments. The Bryan, named for the former president of Washington State college, was launched at the Kaiser Richmond-shipyard last February.

Unquestionably no trace whatever will be found of most of those who perished in the disaster. In the instant of the explosions they simply ceased to be.

Monetary loss will run into many billions of dollars. The big victory ships, of the class of the Quinault, cost around \$3,000,000 to build and outfit. The smaller liberty of the Bryan class, around \$1,300,000. Property damage in Port Chicago and in several neighboring towns was great.

Capt. N. H. Goss of Rockville, Ind., commanding officer at the ammunition magazine, commented "We have no basis for giving any cause of the explosion, as there are no close survivors to give evidence of what happened."

## Year's Heat Record Set

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Other maximums reported by the weather bureau included:

Yakima 90, Ellensburg 97, Olympia 95, Boise 95, Roseburg, Ore. 92, Hoquiam 90. The northwest was hotter than California, where Los Angeles had an 80 maximum and San Francisco's was 67.

There were also cool spots along the coast, with North Bend, Ore., reporting 68 and Tatonah island off the northern Washington coast a cool 63.

Other hot spots in Oregon Tuesday were Pendleton and Salem with maximums of 102; Baker, 95; Eugene, 94; Burns, 93; Roseburg and Medford, 92; Medford and Bend, 91.

## Sprague to Speak On Town Meeting

The "Town Meeting of the Air" at which Charles A. Sprague, Statesman editor, will be one of the speakers, will be held at the Tacoma theatre at 5:30 p.m. Thursday. However, the transcription will be broadcast over the blue network in the west, KEX, Portland, at 10 p.m. The earlier time for the original audition is to accommodate eastern audiences. The question to be discussed is "Should war plants be sold to private industry?"

## Pettichord Returns To Coaching Chores

PULLMAN, July 18—(AP)—Melvin "Pat" Pettichord, who as a Washington State college track star in 1940 served as Cougar coach, has a medical discharge from the army air forces and this fall will resume his coaching job at Battleground. During his WSC career, Pettichord helped the Pacific Coast all-stars beat the Big Ten's best.

## Sam Rayburn Says He's Not Candidate

CHICAGO, July 18—(AP)—Speaker Sam Rayburn notified the regular Texas delegation to the democratic convention tonight that he is not a candidate for vice president and does not wish his name presented to the convention.

## Hughson Notches 14th

CHICAGO, July 18—(AP)—The Boston Red Sox, held hitless after the fifth frame, broke out with four singles in the seventh inning tonight to give Tex Hughson his season's fourteenth victory, 4 to 2, and beat the White Sox for the eleventh time in as many meetings this year. A crowd of 22,268 saw the game.

Box: 300 200 000 50—4 11 1 Chl.—100 000 001 96—2 4 2 Hughson and Wagner, Dietrich, Malsberger (9) and Frank.

## Explosion Blows Cars to Bits



Cars parked near the dock area at Port Chicago, Calif., were blown to bits when two munitions ships exploded. Hundreds were killed. In background is the wreckage of one of the docks. Residents first believed the blast heralded a Jap attack. (Associated Press photo from Navy.)

## British Start Big Offensive On Caen Plain

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est bastions, protecting the route eastward to Paris, 120 miles away. Heavy fighting was raging today, with the Britons and Canadians cleaning out the town of Vaucelles on the south side of the Orne opposite Caen, and strong armored and mobile forces spreading out into the Caen plain—open, ideal tank fighting country south-east of the city, seven to eight miles wide and extending 20 miles southeastward all the way to Falaise.

## Germans Surprised

The new offensive, announced in the first special press conference called at supreme headquarters since D-day, caught the Germans by surprise, and the headquarters statement said "Gen. Montgomery is well satisfied with the progress made in the first day's fighting of this battle."

It looked as though the offensive might prove to be another El Alamein—the battle in Egypt where Gen. Montgomery defeated Marshal Rommel and started the long westward drive across north Africa.

## Yanks in St. Lo

On the American front the break in the battle for St. Lo, the hardest for the Americans since their landings on the Normandy beaches, came suddenly this morning as the Germans began trying to pull away. Associated Press Correspondent Don Whitehead wrote from the rubble town tonight. The first American troops entered the outskirts of the town at 10 a. m., and tonight marched in triumph through the streets of the main town itself.

## Robot Bombs Continue To Plague England

LONDON, Wednesday, July 19—(AP)—A number of persons were feared killed as Hitler's vengeance bombs zoomed over southern England early today. One landed in a garage and wrecked a home. It was the second time within a few days that a bomb struck the same district.

## Roosevelt Would OK Tugman's Selection

ST. LOUIS, July 18—(AP)—The Post-Dispatch tonight said it had learned that President Roosevelt is prepared to announce, at the proper time, that he will be pleased to run with senator Harry Truman of Missouri as vice-president.

**ELMORE**  
Doors Open 8:45 P.M.  
NOW SHOWING!  
Samuel Goldwyn  
SHOW OF SHOWS  
**Denny KAYE**  
**UP IN ARMS**  
Thrillat Suspense  
**"SECRETS OF SCOTLAND YARD"**  
with an All Star Cast  
Extra! Bugs Bunny Cartoons

## ON the HOME FRONT

By ISABEL CHILDS

A souvenir from the Pacific "made in Japan" came to Salem this week to tiny Diane Black from her father, First Lt. Gordon Black, now stationed somewhere in the western ocean.

Don't pull in your underlip, because it's nothing gruesome. Remember the lovely glass balls we used to pick up on our Oregon beaches? Japanese fish floats, we termed them.

Every highway inn in the saltair country had a window full of them (may still have for all your untraveled correspondent knows).

Lt. Black has unplugged such a float, filled it with dimes (\$40 worth) and sent it home to his infant daughter.

Diane is attracted to the glass ball bowl in its fishnet basket now, but her mother and her father's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Gordon Black of Salem, are pretty well convinced that it will be more than a plaything to her in years to come as she learns the story of the unpeaceful Pacific and her father's service.

## Allied Planes Sink-Damage 7 Jap Ships

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea, Wednesday, July 19—(AP)—Lt. Gen. George A. Kenney's new far eastern air force sank or damaged four merchantmen, three coastal vessels and several barges in the continuation of scouring attacks on Japanese shipping, headquarters announced today.

These blows at the enemy harassed supply routes in the southwest Pacific brought the total Allied bag announced yesterday and today to nine ships, five coastal craft and at least eight barges sunk or crippled.

Patrol bombers caught a 3000-ton freighter-transport off Halmahera, one of the few remaining enemy strongholds between Gen. Douglas MacArthur and the Philippines. It was left burning, dead in the water.

Three 1,000-ton freighters were sunk or damaged. Two were attacked off Flores Island in Dutch East Indies waters south of Celebes. The other was sunk in Dutch New Guinea's MacCleur gulf.

## Chinese Fight Back on Japs At Hengyang

CHUNGKING, July 18—(AP)—Defiant Chinese still holding the Canton-Hankow rail junction of Hengyang in the face of furious enemy assaults have thrown themselves against the Japanese on the approaches to the city and "penetrated many enemy positions," the high command announced tonight.

The Japanese scored a breakthrough into the city, a communiqué reported, but in fierce street fighting were thrown back. At the rail city of LeiYang, 34 miles to the south, a Japanese force which had by-passed Hengyang for a sweep toward the railway sustained "immense losses," the bulletin said, and "has shown signs of collapse."

Unconfirmed Chinese press dispatches reported a new Chinese counter-offensive mounted in Honan province to the north against the Japanese near Kiohsan, 150 miles north of Hankow.

## FDR May Make Trip To England, Chenoweth

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., July 18—(AP)—Rep. J. Edgar Chenoweth (R-Colo.) of Trinidad, Colo., today predicted that President Roosevelt would make a speech from overseas accepting the democratic nomination for a fourth term.

"I predict the president will be in England in the next few days if he is not now there and will make his accepting speech from overseas," he told the third Colorado congressional district assembly following his unanimous nomination for a third term.

## Port of Portland Will Handle More War Goods

PORTLAND, Ore., July 18—(AP)—The port of Portland soon will be handling mainly men and materials for war, Mayor Earl Riley said today upon his return from municipal meetings in Chicago. He said he anticipated a huge movement through this port in connection with the Pacific war effort.

## Erickson, Ford Lead In Montana Primary

HELENA, Mont., July 18—(AP)—Supreme court justice Lief Erickson, democrat, and republican governor Sam C. Ford tonight were stacking up early leads in Montana's gubernatorial primary.

## Van Ausdell Receives DFC For Air Work

The distinguished flying cross has been awarded to First Lt. P. D. Van Ausdell, jr., his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Van Ausdell, 336 Oak street, Salem, have been notified. A copy of the official order was sent to them. The citation reads:

"On April 21, 1944, Lt. Van Ausdell led his flight as escort to heavy bombers on a mission against vital enemy installations in Rumania. In the target area, his formation was aggressively attacked by approximately 30 enemy fighters. Despite the superiority in numbers of the hostile force, Lt. Van Ausdell turned in to the enemy ships, and, in the ensuing engagement, he so skillfully maneuvered his aircraft that he damaged one enemy fighter and probably destroyed another.

"Observing four P-51's heavily engaged and under additional attacks from other enemy planes, Lt. Van Ausdell immediately went to their aid, driving off all subsequent attacks, thus enabling his comrades to destroy three enemy fighters. Through the exceptional protective cover of Lt. Van Ausdell and his comrades, the bomber formation was able to complete a highly successful mission unharmed.

"By his outstanding courage, leadership and devotion to duty, as evidenced throughout over 90 successful missions against the enemy, Lt. Van Ausdell has reflected great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States of America."

Van Ausdell graduated from Salem high school in 1936, and entered the air corps in March, 1942. He took training at Santa Ana and Luke field, Phoenix, Ariz. Before going overseas in April, 1943, he was stationed at Oakland air field as a P-39 pilot. In the European theatre he piloted Spitfires and later the P-51 Mustang. Van Ausdell also holds the Air Medal with eight Oak Leaf clusters.

## Germans Shoot Thirty-Three Allied Fliers

LONDON, July 18—(AP)—Thirty three more allied fliers have been shot by the Germans, most of them allegedly while attempting escape, bringing to 152 the known total of prisoners killed by their Nazi captors, War Secretary Sir James Grigg disclosed in commons today.

Grigg gave no details except to say the Germans had reported 27 of the fliers killed during attempts at escape. But it was learned in London tonight that they were cut down, not in a group, but in various breaks from prison camps or trains.

He had reported to commons last August that 69 British prisoners of war had been shot in Germany. Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden on June 23 disclosed that 50 airmen had been killed during alleged attempts to escape Stalagluft three, prison camp near Dresden.

## Hayden Leads In Arizona

PHOENIX, Ariz., July 18—(AP)—Sen. Carl Hayden who has spent 32 of his 66 years in Washington as a representative of his native state grabbed a lead of more than two to one for the democratic nomination in early returns from today's quiet party primary.

The light balloting, estimated at 50 to 60 per cent of the state's 148,000 registered voters, also favored Reps. John R. Murdock and Richard F. Harless, both elected at large on the basis of Associated Press tabulations. Murdock is serving his fourth term and Harless his first.

## Remains of Ships After Big Blast



Bits of metal sticking out of Suisun bay was all that remained of two munitions ships that exploded at Port Chicago, Calif., taking a heavy toll of life and injuring hundreds. The town of Port Chicago was virtually demolished. (Associated Press photo from US navy.)

## Dewey Backs State Control Of GI Voting

ALBANY, N.Y., July 18—(AP)—Defending his plan of state control of soldier voting, Gov. Thomas E. Dewey declared today it was both "complete and valid" and asserted advocates of a federal supplemental ballot were playing "partisan politics" by supporting a "void and worthless" proposal.

The issue, involving state's rights, thus was drawn clearly between the republican presidential nominee and President Roosevelt, who has championed a federal ballot for four offices.

Dewey, in a press conference, asserted the New York voting plan gives every service man "a full ballot." He said "the partial" supplementary federal ballot "would be void and worthless under the constitution of this state."

## Hitler Shakes Up Command

LONDON, Wednesday, July 19—(AP)—Unsettled over the prospect of new allied landings, Hitler has created a new anti-invasion command in Belgium and northern France and at the same time taken civilian control in this region out of the hands of the military and placed it under the gestapo.

A dual shakeup, announced in a broadcast by DNB, German official news agency, placed Joseph Grohe, 42-year-old high officer of the entire region and gave the military command to infantry Gen. Graue.

The new setup ousted Col. Gen. Alexander Von Falkenhausen, a friend of Field Marshal Karl Von Rundstedt, who had been commander of Belgium and Holland since May 20, 1940, and subsequently of northern France.

## New Block Island Will Be Launched

WASHINGTON, July 18—(AP)—A new aircraft carrier Block Island will be launched in 1944, Secretary of the Navy Forrestal said today. The original Block Island was announced as lost in the Atlantic early last month as a result of enemy action.

**LIBERTY**  
— Opens 6:45 P.M. —  
TODAY!  
HE FOUGHT, LOVED... AND ADVENTURED!  
**TYRONE POWER**  
**GENE TIERNEY**  
**"Son of Fury"**  
**GEORGE SANDERS**  
**RODDY McDOWELL**  
CO-FEATURE  
**MODERN ROBIN HOOD**  
**TIM HOLT**  
**Red River**  
**ROBIN HOOD**

## New Russian Push in South Gains 31 Miles

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reserved for action on a possible 1000-mile front from the Narva sector of Estonia down to the Rumania beaches on the Black sea. 1000 Towns Fall

Nearly 1000 new towns and villages were overrun by the Russians, 600 of them in the new drive on Lwow, and between that city had captured Kovel, 95 miles to the north.

With the heavy support of massed guns and clouds of warplanes the First Ukrainian army went over to the offensive last Sunday after a three-month lull on that front, and "broke through strong and deeply echeloned" axis defenses.

Lwow was threatened by one column which seized Kaminonka, 22 miles on the north-northeast, by a second group which took Busk, 25 miles on the northeast, and by a third which captured Borkov, 27 miles on the east, Moscow said.

## Dr. W. B. Morse Slightly Improved

Dr. W. B. Morse, seriously ill at Salem General hospital, where he was taken Sunday, rallied slightly Tuesday, attendants said. The physician, who has served Salem longer than any other, left his office late in March and had been hospitalized or convalescing since that time.

## Limited Engagement! Starts Thurs., July 27

Nights at 8; Sunday Mats. 2:30

**ICE-CAPADES of 1945**  
Seat Sale now at Portland Arena  
And J. K. Gill & Co. Prices:  
\$1.50, \$2.25, \$3.75 and \$5.00,  
including tax.  
**Portland Arena**  
NW 30th at Marshall

**NOW! GRAND**  
THE MUSICAL WITH A POINT OF VIEW!  
The "point of view" of the typical AMERICAN!  
**Meet the People**  
LUCILLE BALL  
DICK POWELL  
and SPIKE JONES  
and his City Slickers  
VAUGHN MONROE  
and his orchestra  
CHILLING VOO-DOO CO-HIT!  
**WEIRD WOMAN**  
Late News! Army Repairs Cherbourg! Nazi "Secret Weapons" Taken!  
THE LITTLE HOUSE WITH THE BIG HITS  
**"STATE"**  
— Opens at 8:45 P.M. —  
NOW SHOWING!  
Betty GRABLE  
JOHN PAYNE  
G. MIRANDA  
Cesar ROMERO  
HARRY JAMES  
IN TECHNICOLOR  
**SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES**  
CO-HIT! PACKED WITH LAFFS!  
CLOYD NULAN · CAROLE LANDIS  
**It Happened in FLATBUSH**