

Loss Nearly \$100,000 in Downtown Salem Fire

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

Miss Katherine F. Lenroot, chief of the children's bureau of the government, in her report issued last week painted a very sorry picture of the physical condition of the nation's children. In fact she set it down that the health of the youngsters was in "a shocking state." She boiled her statistical knowledge down thus:

Ten million boys and girls under 21 have defective vision.

Two million have impaired hearing and 17,000 of them are deaf.

Close to 1,000,000 have congenital syphilis.

A half million have orthopedic or spastic conditions.

Four hundred thousand have tuberculosis.

Nearly half a million have or are being affected by rheumatic fever.

Nearly three-fourths of all school children have dental defects.

The instinctive reaction to these statistics is one of alarm precedent to "doing something about it," which Miss Lenroot says is up to the people and the congress. However, a few days after this report was published came a release from the information service of the Metropolitan Life Insurance company which shows very definite improvement in the physical condition of youth. This report says:

"American young men of today are, on the average, nearly an (Continued on Editorial Page).

ELAS-Emissary Might Accept British Terms

ATHENS, Dec. 13-(P)—As calm descended tonight on Athens for the first time in a strife-torn week, it was reported in leftist quarters that an emissary of the ELAS (fighting branch of the left-wing EAM party) would call on Maj. Gen. Ronald M. Scobie tomorrow to announce acceptance of British terms to end the civil war.

This report was contrary to the announcement made earlier today by ELAS town criers who roamed the streets with megaphones saying the terms offered by Scobie, British commander in Greece, had been refused and "we shall fight on if it means smashing Athens."

According to the information from the leftists, the ELAS will ask in return for their acceptance of the British conditions that they not be prosecuted as a party and that Scobie accept a new national government headed by someone other than Premier George Papandreu.

Chinese Score Further Gains

CHUNGKING, Dec. 13-(P)—As Chinese troops scored still further gains in Kwangsi province, Cabinet Spokesman P. H. Chang announced today that the high command was considering how to meet possible new emergencies and plans for making the best use of every opportunity to take the military initiative.

In an overnight advance of about 10 miles, Chinese forces drove more than 20 miles into Kwangsi in pursuit of Japanese units retreating from Kweichow province. They were reported to be about 15 miles from Hohchi, which is some 95 miles northwest of Luchow, former site of an important US air base.

Additional Bond Purchases Sought of Large Investors

Doubled and redoubled efforts to induce large investors to subscribe additional amounts toward the Sixth War Loan campaign were being made as the drive swung into the last half of the last week still more than a million dollars short of the \$5,000,000 quota.

"All of our workers are making special appeals to their friends to increase their purchases and put Marlon county over the top before Saturday night," declared Chairman Douglas Yester, who with Co-chairman Francis Smith is organizing forces for the final push.

The Oregon Statesman

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NINETY-FOURTH YEAR

12 PAGES

Salem, Oregon, Thursday Morning, December 14, 1944

Weather

Maximum temperature Wednesday 48 degrees, minimum temperature 23 degrees; no rain; river -2 ft. Clear Thursday and Friday with light and morning valley fogs north and west portions. Little temperature change.

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U. S. FIRST OPENS ASSAULT

Japanese Factory Blasted

Superfortresses Rain Bombs on Nips' Third City

By Vern Haugland
21ST BOMBER COMMAND, Saipan, Dec. 13-(P)—Superfortresses today rained bombs on Nagoya, Japan's third largest city, centering their attack upon the largest aircraft factory. Numerous explosions and fires were observed.

Returning crews tonight said they concentrated on the Hatsu-doki aircraft plant, the largest operated by the vast Mitsubishi company, at the northeast edge of Nagoya.

Mission Success
Brig. Gen. Haywood Hansell jr., said at a press conference shortly before midnight that "the mission has been a success."

"Many bomb strikes have been obtained in the Mitsubishi aircraft works," he said. "Damage was quite extensive. I am not prepared to assess that damage until I have had a chance to study photographs but I think it's a good mission."

No Planes Lost

He added that early indications were that none of the B-29s was lost over the target.

Hansell said leading units found fighter interception but this dwindled as other Superfortresses came over Nagoya later. There was considerable anti-aircraft fire. Both interception and ack ack were ineffective.

Senators Find Fag Shortage To Get Worse

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13-(P)—Senators probing into the cigaret scarcity discovered today that the worst is yet to come.

The armed forces overseas, they were told, are getting about 30 per cent of the supply now and will need a lot more next year, and there isn't much that can be done to boost production.

The senators, members of the war investigating committee, uncovered practically no suspicion of industry skulduggery in a three-hour interrogation of witnesses. The testimony indicated that the scarcity on retail shelves is due to an actual lack of fags.

Leonard Francis Lulay Killed in War Action

SUBLIMITY, Dec. 13-(Special) Notification that their son, Tech. 5 Leonard Francis Lulay, 24, radio operator with a tank destroyer battalion, had been killed in action in France on November 15, was received here this week by Mr. and Mrs. N. R. Lulay. In civilian life, Lulay, graduate of Aumsville high school with the class of 1938, drove a logging truck for Lulay Bros. Lumber company.

Blaze Rips Through Capital City Transfer



Household Goods of Over 100 Families Destroyed; Loss Partially Covered

A spectacular downtown fire left in ruins today, with a loss estimated from \$75,000 to \$100,000, the interior of the Capital City Transfer company at 226 State street and the household furnishings of well over 100 families.

Starting from an unknown source in the basement of the 46-by-100-foot brick building, the blaze swept swiftly out of control soon after an employee of the transfer company noticed smoke about 2 p.m. Wednesday.

Within a matter of minutes the fire, spurred by fuel and inflammable finishes on stored furniture, broke through to the upper stories and sent flames and smoke hundreds of feet into the air.

Hundreds See Blaze
Hundreds of persons witnessed the spectacle.

Firemen played water on side and front walls to prevent their collapse from heat, and the flames were confined to the transfer building. There was no appreciable damage to the Bosler Electric company adjoining the burned structure to the east, or to the Salem Seed and Implement company on the opposite side. The safe was removed from the Bosler firm as a precaution.

In one instance, a fireman's ladder caught fire when flames broke through a second-story window, and at least two had narrow escapes from falling bricks, but there were no serious injuries. Several firefighters suffered from the cold and exposure.

Loss is Heavy
The building and transfer company were owned and operated by Mrs. F. E. Loose and her son, Loren Loose. Insurance officials estimated the structure could not be replaced for less than \$40,000. It was estimated, also, that the average value of household goods owned by each of the families in-house had induced the seller to take part of the down payment in new bonds purchased during the sixth campaign.

Lack of Housing in Salem, and the temporary removal of some families to war jobs in other towns, were among reasons why so many furnishings were stored. Loose did not immediately announce future plans, pending further investigation of damage. It was believed most of the company's records were intact in a safe.

Anyhow, He'll Have Plenty of Time to Measure

DENVER, Dec. 13-(P)—Patrolmen Joe Hale and Robert Riley, called to the scene of an automobile collision, carefully measured this way and that.

A bystander grew critical of their methods. The measurements he complained, were all wrong. The policemen measured again. The bystander kibitzed some more.

The cops rolled up their tape measures and trundled the bystander off to jail. He was charged with interference.

Railroad Freight Rates Will Remain Same, '45

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13-(P)—A further year's suspension of emergency railroad freight rates increases was ordered today by the interstate commerce commission. They were first suspended in May, 1943.

The 10 per cent increase in passenger fares, in effect since February 10, 1942, was continued.

Japs Report U. S. Ships In Inland Island Waters

(By the Associated Press)
The appearance of big American warships in inland waters of the Philippines was reported—it may be a Tokyo fishing expedition to ascertain disposition of the fleet—by the enemy's radio today (Thursday).

Weather Halts Air Offensive

LONDON, Dec. 13-(P)—The mists and clouds of Europe's winter stifled the allied air offensive against Germany today, holding the heavy bombers away from enemy targets which in the two previous days had been rocked by 20,000 tons of explosives from some 8000 planes.

Bad weather closed in after a strong force of RAF Lancasters and Halifaxes, plus night fighters and Mosquitos, completed the second day of around-the-clock assault on enemy transportation and oil refineries with a shattering blow at Essen and a smaller strike at Omabruck late last night.

Heavy Detonations Heard Inside Norway

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 13-(P)—Heavy detonations in Norway were heard tonight in Karlstad, several miles from the Swedish-Norwegian frontier, indicating Oslo was being bombed, the newspaper Dagens Nyheter reported.

Blow Against Nazi Duren Defenders Smashes 2 Miles

Hodges' Troops Drive Germans From 5-Mile Stretch on Roer; Seventh Army Stopped by River

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCES, Paris, Dec. 13-(AP)—A long awaited assault by the US First army against the left wing of German defenders of Duren smashed two miles eastward on both sides of the Roer river in the Monschau area today while farther north troops of the same army drove the Germans from a five-mile stretch on the west bank of the Roer just south of Duren itself.

The new offensive has two prongs, both pointing eastward from points east and southeast of Rotgen, first German town captured by American troops. This drive along the Roer is south of the Hurtgen forest.

The five-mile stretch on the west bank of the Roer was not clearly defined by dispatches from the front, although Hodges' troops were reported to have come within less than 3000 yards of Gurenich southwest of Duren and cleared the village of Gey, farther south.

Yanks Inflict Heavy Losses On Leyte Japs

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines, Thursday, Dec. 14-(P)—American troops are making gains against the Japanese north of Ormoc on Leyte island, inflicting "extraordinarily heavy" losses on the enemy, headquarters said today.

The Japanese continued their efforts to get supplies ashore for their troops pressed into the northwestern part of the island by troops of the 77th, Seventh and 32nd divisions.

Three small enemy vessels trying to land near Ormoc, which fell to the Americans Sunday, were sunk yesterday by Yank gunfire.

Catalinas and Mitchell medium bombers sank or damaged five enemy coastal vessels and damaged a shipyard and docks in raids on Sandakan, North Borneo, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's communique said.

Allied fighter planes set fire to oil tanks and refineries on the north Borneo coast.

Big 3 Meet Imminent Due To Conditions

By John A. Farris, Jr.
LONDON, Dec. 13-(P)—Diplomatic problems clamoring for swift solution drew President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill—and possibly Marshal Stalin—closer to another of their historic meetings tonight.

At stake was the settlement of such immediate problems as the coordination of apparently diverging allied policies in Europe and the necessity for speeding plans for the treatment of Germany after the war.

Among the sign posts pointing to an early meeting was the sharp decline in Anglo-American relations, now possibly at their lowest ebb since the outbreak of the war.

Roosevelt's Plurality Reaches 3,585,081

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13-(P)—President Roosevelt's plurality in his fourth-term victory over Gov. Thomas E. Dewey has reached 3,585,081, with returns of the November 7 election nearly complete.

Five weeks after the election, officials of several states have not completed the canvassing and certifying of votes.

A total of 47,911,597 presidential votes is shown in the nearly-complete compilation.

Finding Markets Chief Problem of Agriculture

ST. PAUL, Dec. 13-(P)—Postwar agriculture's greatest problem—in the face of an abundant capacity to produce—will be to find good markets for all that farmers can efficiently produce, Claude R. Wickard, secretary of agriculture said here tonight.

87 Die From Snowstorm as Skies Clear

(By the Associated Press)

Clearing weather moved slowly eastward across the nation last night gradually dissipating a snow storm that had enveloped a wide area and caused 87 deaths in the United States and southeastern Canada since Sunday.

Snow flurries in the great lakes, Ohio valley and northeastern states will subside largely by tonight, the weather bureau predicted, and a somewhat warmer air mass now west of the Mississippi river will move in.

Sixty-seven deaths attributable to the storm were recorded in the United States and an additional 20 in Canada. Pennsylvania had the highest state toll with 15, Ohio was second with 12, and Colorado, Missouri, and New York ranked third with five each.

9 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT
SOMETHING MISSING FROM YOUR SHOPPING LIST?
BUY OR SEAS