

U. S. Invaders of Mindoro Seize Town and Airfields

The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

NINETY-FOURTH YEAR

22 PAGES

Salem, Oregon, Sunday Morning, December 17, 1944

Price 5c

No. 233

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Squire

There is an old saying, uncertain of origin, that is frequently quoted: "Let me but write the songs of a people and I care not who writes its laws." The aphorism bears eloquent testimony to the power of song.

It remains a mystery, though, why some songs live and others die. Why, for example, does the Star Spangled Banner with its inappropriate words and its almost impossible music survive as our national anthem?

From Tinpan Alley comes a continuous stream of music, and from more sedate music publishers a steady flow of music of higher grade. As with books, the fates deal variously with this output of song. Songs live or die as public favor is given or withheld. A very few have lived through the centuries and become part of the musical lore of the people.

The immediate popularity of a song doesn't determine its length of life. I remember a snatch of a song of 1898, about the sinking of the Maine, perhaps because our hired girl sang it with such feeling while she washed the dishes:

"Then came the death-dealing crash,
Rending the vessel in twain,
Down went my sweetheart to death,
Down went the crew of the Maine."

Well, that song didn't last any longer than the Spanish war. Ernest Ball's "After the Ball is Over" had a much longer vogue; and (continued on editorial page)

Scobie Rejects EAM Proposals For War End

ATHENS, Dec. 16 (AP)—Lt. Gen. Ronald M. Scobie rejected peace proposals of the Eam (left-wing national liberation front party) today because the leftists offer failed to provide immediate cessation of resistance and fighting continued in the capital.

A British headquarters statement said, "General Scobie must continue to insist upon satisfactory fulfillment of this condition." Scobie, the British commander in Greece, has demanded that all Eam (fighting branch of the Eam) supporters in Athens and its port, Piraeus, stop fighting against British and Greek government troops and surrender their arms.

The tone of his reply to the Eam peace offer today, however, was regarded as hopeful.

Allies Occupy Ridge in Italy

ROME, Dec. 16 (AP)—British and Polish troops and tanks, closing a ring around strategic Faenza on the edge of the Po plain, gouged out a foothold today on a dominating ridge two miles west of the city as heavy fighting flared abruptly along nearly half of the Italian front.

The ridge runs between Cella, a mile and a half west of Faenza, to Pideura, four miles southwest, and the Germans tried vainly to blast the British Eighth army forces from it with an artillery barrage.

As the barrage lifted, four Tiger tanks and infantry sprang to the attack, but they were hurled back and the allied forces took more than 200 prisoners.

Senate Okehs Hurley, Heller

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (AP)—The senate confirmed 20 members of the surplus property disposal board late today and by doing so cleared the way for debate next week on six disputed state department nominations.

Former Governor Robert A. Hurley of Connecticut and Lt. Col. Edward H. Heller, an army finance officer from San Francisco, were approved as members of the surplus property board which will handle the sale of an estimated \$100,000,000 worth of government-held commodities, machines, factories and land. The president has designated Hurley as chairman.

The votes of approval—41 to 28 for Hurley, 43 to 26 for Heller—adhered very closely to party lines. Both men are democrats.

Weather

Maximum temperature Saturday 37 degrees, minimum 23, no rain, river -2 ft. 5 in.

Clear Sunday and Monday, except for local valley fog; little temperature change.

NAZIS COUNTERATTACK

Seventh Pushes Forward

Nazi Blow Made At Dozen Points On First Front

By Austin Bealmer
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLEID EXPEDITIONARY FORCES, Paris, Dec. 16 (AP)—German counterattacks were opened today at a dozen points on the 70-mile First U. S. army front between Duren and Trier, the heaviest fighting occurring in the Ardennes forest.

The counter thrust were an apparent effort to draw off pressure against the Duren sector.

Although the full extent of the assault can not yet be determined, it included attacks at widely separated points including the area of Monschau, the neighborhood of Krewinkel, eight miles north of Prum, at Peterskirche, 14 miles southwest of Prum, and Eichtemach, 10 miles northwest of Trier.

The drive was pointed at the Ardennes region or mountain forest through which the German army passed in 1940.

More Men Sent In
The Germans drew an armored division from another front and hurled it today at the U. S. Seventh army, which poured more troops into the reich's Palatinat after smashing the enemy stand in the French frontier city of Lauterbourg.

All along a front of more than 200 miles, where four American armies have invaded Germany, the enemy loosed artillery barrages which reached an intensity of 100 shells an hour on some U. S. First army sectors, and up to 250 an hour on the U. S. Third army front in the Saar basin.

Destroy Bridges
The thunder of explosions set off by the Germans destroying the last bridges across the Roer river indicated that they had given up hope of holding back the First army on the west bank of that stream.

The Germans counterattacked for the first time in two weeks against the U. S. Ninth army north of Lindern, but were thrown back.

(A German broadcast said the U. S. Ninth army had turned on giant loudspeakers which blared out "advertising" of an impending offensive.)

Transfer Firm, Struck by Fire, Will Be Rebuilt

The Capital City Transfer, the interior of which was destroyed in a \$100,000 fire Wednesday, will be rebuilt as soon as material can be procured under current wartime regulations, Loren Loose, co-owner and operator, said Saturday.

In the meantime the transfer business is being operated from an office at 246 State, two doors east of the company's former location. No trucks were burned in the conflagration, which destroyed a good share of the stored household effects of more than 100 families.

Production Frozen; Bond Quota Passed

Will Curb Worker Turnover

No New Civilian Goods Output Will Be Allowed

By Sterling F. Green
WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (AP)—The war production board today threw its weight into the drive to keep workers on the munitions lines by freezing its programs for civilian goods production at current levels.

A spokesman for the office of civilian requirements, however, gave this assurance: "Civilian production necessary to meet essential requirements will be fully protected."

At High Level
He noted also that authorized production in the present quarter, the yardstick for future civilian output, is at the highest level since the conversion of industry to war production.

The ceiling will stand until further notice, which probably means until German collapse is at hand or imminent—and is designed, an official announcement said, "to prevent reconversion from interfering with production for military needs."

Blocks Early Plans
The order, a policy guide to the WPB's staff signed December 7 but only now made public, blocks earlier plans for expansion in 1945 in a number of durable goods programs.

It applies less to clothing, textiles, and other "soft" goods and to parts and raw materials, WPB said, than to hard goods.

Oregon Lags In Purchase Of E Bonds

PORTLAND, Dec. 16 (AP)—The curtain falls tonight on the actual selling campaign for the sixth war loan drive, and Oregon is still poking behind toward a \$34,000,000 E bond goal.

Although E bond sales of \$23,085,757 reached today were 12 per cent behind the ratio of the fifth war loan drive, sales up to January 1 will count toward the quota.

The state's all-over total climbed still further past the \$107,000,000 goal today, reaching \$121,942,792. One of the drive's largest single investments was \$3,200,000 in bonds purchased by the city of Portland.

Governor Snell made a statewide appeal today for increased E bond purchases.

Morgenthau Says 6th Loan Will Go Above 19 Billion

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (AP)—Treasury secretary Morgenthau predicted tonight the sixth war loan will go above \$19,000,000,000 when all returns are in.

He said he was "thrilled" to report that it now seems clear the crucial quota of \$5,000,000,000 for individual bond-buyers will be fully achieved.

Soviets Smash On Westward Toward Vienna

LONDON, Sunday, Dec. 17 (AP)—The Red army salient 100 miles northeast of Budapest was extended virtually to the Slovak border at a new point yesterday while other Russian tanks and infantry smashed westward towards Vienna from the newly-won bridgeheads at Ipolyzag in western Slovakia northwest of the Hungarian capital.

Moscow's broadcast communique last night restricted itself to gains some 27 to 30 miles north and northeast of Miskolc, which is 85 miles north and northeast of Miskolc, which is 85 miles northeast of Budapest, but the Germans announced withdrawals to new positions north and west of Ipolyzag in the face of continual Russian assaults.

Unofficial Moscow dispatches also said the Russians were strengthening their bridgehead over the Ipoly river at Ipolyzag and thrusting toward the Slovak capital of Bratislava, 87 miles to the west, and towards Vienna, 115 miles in the same direction.

U.S. Bombers Hit Rail Yards

LONDON, Dec. 16 (AP)—A force of 100 U. S. heavy bombers dumped explosives on railroad yards north of Stuttgart today, blasting the enemy transportation hub for the second time in eight days in support of Seventh army columns invading Germany north of Strasbourg.

Pilots of 100 Mustangs which escorted the Flying Fortresses reported the Germans failed to intercept the attack concentrated on freight yards at Kornwestheim, north of Stuttgart suburb. One group of heavies bombed visually. Others used the "magic eye" in the overcast.

British Experts Arrive For Supply Discussion

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (AP)—British minister of state Richard Law and a party of experts arrived in Washington by Royal air force transport plane this afternoon. They are here for discussions with American authorities of supply problems in liberated European territories.

Marion Gets Just Over Line

E Goal Reached; Final Report Not Ready for Week

In a photo finish that kept workers on the anxious seat right up to the last minute, Marion county topped its sixth war loan quota of \$5,000,000 shortly before 6 o'clock Saturday night—last day of the drive.

Bulletins from Salem's issuing agencies and outside committees streamed in all day Saturday, but final reports will not be available until next week, according to Chairman Douglas Yeater. Bond headquarters with Lawrence Fisher in charge will be open at least two days and possibly three days of next week to check up reports, receive stubs of sales and clean up other odds and ends of the successful campaign.

Yeater Happy
"Of course I'm very happy about going over the top," declared Chairman Yeater last night, "but the most gratifying aspect of the entire campaign was the cooperation of all workers and the fact that Marion county went over the top on its E series bond quota of \$1,500,000—even if we did have to wait until the last day for that too."

Final check on E bond sales by Accountant Fisher revealed that \$1,502,000 actually was on the books and that probably another hundred thousand or two would be reported during the coming week and certainly before the official ending of the campaign December 31. All purchases of E, F, G, and C bonds this month will count in the drive but only the \$400,000 Victory dream house E bond sales ended last night. The house will be given away at a public program during the coming week.

Large Buyers Short
Corporate purchases also went over their two-million-dollar quota, but large individual buyers still were somewhat short of the \$1,500,000 expected of them. Late reports also may put them over the quota, officials hoped.

All But 2 Lost As Ship Sinks

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (AP)—A giant American tanker carrying supplies to the European theater went down in the Atlantic several weeks ago following a "terrific explosion," it was announced today. There were only two survivors.

In announcing the loss today the war shipping administration said the ship was believed to have been torpedoed.

The survivors were a merchant seaman and a navy gunner who escaped the flame-covered waters that quickly surrounded the vessel.

No announcement was made by WSA as to the number of casualties.

Elliott Roosevelts Visit Bride's Mother

FORT WORTH, Tex., Dec. 16 (AP)—A change in plans sent Col. and Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt on to Beaumont today for a visit with the bride's mother, Mrs. Jean Young, after the couple had spent a few hours in Fort Worth.

After arriving here by private plane early today they said they planned to spend the weekend in Fort Worth.

Red Cross Goal Set

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (AP)—The minimum goal for the 1945 Red Cross fund will be \$180,000,000.

Philippine Casualties Removed



These two Yanks, who paid with their lives at Leyte for the foothold which gave their comrades a chance to push on to Mindoro, are being removed in preparation for burial at sea in the traditional navy manner. They were killed in an aerial attack on fleet units. Navy gunners shot down 13 of the 25 Japanese bombers which swooped in for the assault. (Associated Press wirephoto)

Historic Portland Hotel, 61 Years in Operation, Is Sold

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 16 (AP)—The historic Hotel Portland, 61-year-old city landmark, has been purchased by Meier and Frank company, officials of the department store announced today.

Meier and Frank, located on the adjoining block, will operate the 280-room building as a hotel for the present. The hotel was sold at an undisclosed price by the stockholders, headed by Henry L. Day, Wallace, Idaho, president and Mrs. Eleanor Day Boyce, Wallace, secretary-treasurer.

FDR Election To 4th Term Due Monday

By the Associated Press
WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—President Roosevelt gets elected to a fourth term Monday. The vote won't be counted for nearly three weeks, but it will be 432 for him to 99 for Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York.

If you think that's a combination of state news and rash prediction, hunt up your copy of the constitution and it will remind you that it wasn't a president you voted for on November 7 but a set of electors.

Those electors get together in each state December 18 for the voting which technically determines who will run the country in the next four years. Congress does the counting on January 6, at a joint senate-house session. And that makes the result of the election official.

Oregon Reclamation Congress Slates Meet Here This Week

The meeting of the Oregon Reclamation congress here Tuesday and Wednesday coincides with the revival of the Willamette Valley Project committee, which has remained a dormant organization during war years.

Called for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in Salem Chamber of Commerce rooms, the committee brings together the men from over the valley who a few years ago were active in pushing to congressional acceptance a plan for flood control, navigation improvement, water storage and irrigation. Their new assignment is to determine the value of irrigation to land of this area and the interest of landowners in it.

First of the two-day series of reclamation meetings has been called for the School Office (old high school) building at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday. It will deal with "reclamation today," bringing ideas

Churchill Had 'Memory Lapse' Over Charter

LONDON, Dec. 16 (AP)—Prime Minister Churchill had "a lapse of memory" when he erroneously told the house of commons that an insertion in the Atlantic charter permitted "mutually agreed" territorial changes prior to the peace, it was acknowledged today.

It was announced incidentally that he might "quite possibly" broadcast to the world Sunday night a review of the war and the political situation. He was believed working on this tentative address at his official residence, No. 10 Downing street.

One of the prime minister's private secretaries explained to the Associated Press that Churchill, while dealing with Polish territorial changes in his address to the house of commons, had confused the wording of the Atlantic charter with the British government's statement of foreign policy drafted in September, 1940.

While both sides of the Atlantic were considering the portent of Churchill's statement that an insertion had been made in the Atlantic charter, a mutually agreed-on by the three great allied powers, that territorial changes could be settled before the peace conferences, the secretary gave his explanation.

Lumberman's Estate In Excess Quarter Million

EUGENE, Dec. 16 (AP)—The late Robert A. Booth, pioneer northwestern lumberman, left an estate valued at \$263,751.86, an inventory filed in probate court showed.

Yankees Advance 7.9 Miles

Carrier Planes Destroy 235 Nip Craft, 17 Ships

GENERAL MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, Philippines, Sunday, Dec. 17 (AP)—Yank invaders of Mindoro on the China sea side of the Philippines captured the town of San Jose, seized "adjacent airfields" and pushed seven to nine miles inland, headquarters reported today.

Engineers quickly began getting the airfields, within easy range of Manila, 155 miles to the north, in

US PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, Dec. 16 (AP)—American carrier planes in three nights of constant aerial blanketing of Luzon, Philippines, sank or damaged 17 Japanese ships, destroyed 235 aircraft and damaged 138 more planes, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today.

operation as the inland-pushing Yanks still encountered only negligible resistance.

(The communique reference to "airfields five miles inland from the coast on the Busunga river" apparently referred to more than one airstrip near San Jose. There is a second airfield bordering the river but it is more than five miles inland. A third airfield is at Mangarin bay southeast of San Jose in the beachhead sector.)

Twenty-four Japanese planes were shot down over the beachhead and the protecting American warships, today's communique said.

Destroyer Sunk
An enemy destroyer, crippled and seeking refuge in Pandaran bay, was destroyed by US naval units.

The invaders, put ashore on southwest Mindoro by a convoy which moved 600 miles by a circuitous route from Leyte, advanced on "a broad front."

The communique said the seized airfields were "on excellent sites with favorable terrain."

77th Advances
On embattled west Leyte, the 77th division which captured Ormoc town a week ago pushed north and seized the town of Cogon as well as the road junction to the north, thus securing commanding ground for a further advance.

In the corridor extending north from the 77th position to the positions of the 32nd infantry division and the first cavalry division crumpling south from Carigay bay trapped Japanese are making their last stand on Leyte.

3353 Nips Killed
MacArthur announced today that 3353 more Nipponese have been "killed in the last two days along the crumbling Yamashita line." A Japanese counterattack, employing tanks, was repulsed. In the corridor trap, Yank fighter planes attacked the Nipponese stronghold of Valencia.

South and east of Ormoc, the Seventh division "is completing the destruction of isolated enemy forces of the trapped 26th Jap division," headquarters said.

FDR Signs Tax Freezing Bill

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (AP)—President Roosevelt's "reluctant" signature on legislation freezing social security taxes started a general congressional exodus from Washington today.

Except for some state department and surplus property board nominations under fire in the senate, the social security legislation—blocking a scheduled increase from one to two percent in payroll and paycheck taxes on January 1—was the last major hurdle before the 78th congress and its final adjournment.

Announcement of the president's action drew a burst of applause when speaker Rayburn made it in the house, where members generally had expected a veto.

Ward's Seek Injunction

DETROIT, Dec. 16 (AP)—Montgomery Ward & Co., confronted by picket lines of striking CIO unionists at its four Detroit area stores, sought a second injunction today against violence and interference with its non-striking employees.

SHOPPING DAYS
DON'T KEEP ME WAITING

WHAT A DIFFERENCE THREE YEARS MAKE!

