

### IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Smaque

The weekly news magazines Time and Newsweek carry regular sections on Canada. While this is a bow to their Canadian subscribers the publishers must feel that there is sufficient interest in Canadian news on this side of the line to warrant including that material. This is just a sign of the growing community of interest between Canada and the United States.

Without doubt the war has drawn the two nations together. Continental solidarity for military defense was recognized early in this war and a joint commission established. Measures for defense were closely joined. Canadian corvettes helped patrol the sea lanes to foil the German submarines. The United States was permitted to construct air bases for the ferrying of war planes, the Alaskan highway to provide access overland to Alaska, and the Canol oil project to supply Alaska with petroleum products. In war manufacture also there was a coordination of effort and considerable interchange of work.

Then the shock which Great Britain suffered with the fall of France and the Low Countries made Canada snuggle a little closer to its cousin to the south, just as Australia, feeling a bit deserted by its homeland in early 1942 leaned heavily on the United States for protection.

Canada has definitely become a country which faces in two directions. It is a dominion of the British Commonwealth and loyal to the crown as the symbol of imperial unity. It is also

(Continued on editorial page)

### Allies Attempt To Halt Enemy Blows in Italy

ROME, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Strong Allied air and ground forces were thrown into battle today in an effort to halt the German assault on a six-mile front in the Serchio river valley, where American doughboys have been driven from the important road town of Barga in two days of fierce fighting.

The Germans declared that the U. S. 92nd negro division had been knocked back "some kilometers" by the stubborn drive, which evidently was aimed at the vital Allied supply port of Livorno (Leghorn) 33 miles away. Barga is a mile and a half east of the Serchio river and about 15 miles north of the provincial capital of Lucca. Field Marshal Albert Kesselring's forces hit through flatlands and mountains on both sides of the Serchio in the first action of any importance in the Fifth army's west coast sector in several weeks. The attacking Nazis were supported by artillery.

### Nips Complete Strait Tunnel

By the Associated Press  
The Japanese Dmbei news agency reported today completion of the Honshu-Kyushu tunnel under the strait separating these two principal Nipponese industrial islands.

"Following two years of steady and strenuous labor," said Domei in an overseas broadcast recorded by the federal communications commission, "the boring of the Kannon underground national highway connecting the mainland (Honshu) and Kyushu was completed at 10 o'clock tonight" (Thursday).  
The dispatch said the project was started in January, 1943, and that 150,000 workmen had been employed on it.

### Prominent Soviet Trade Union Leader Is Dead

LONDON, Dec. 28.—(AP)—The London radio announced the death today of Klavdia Ivanovna Niklayeva, Soviet trade union leader. An "old Bolshevik," she also was a member of the central committee of the communist party and a member of the presidium of the supreme Soviet. A member of the several Soviet trade union delegations, she had travelled widely abroad.

# Roosevelt, Sewell Avery Collide

## Army In Control Of Firm

Store Chief Says Order Violates U. S. Constitution

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—(AP)—President Roosevelt and Sewell Avery, chairman of the board of Montgomery Ward and company, collided head-on tonight on the issue of the presidential powers in seizing company facilities in seven cities.

The army took over under presidential executive order in the climax of Ward's long refusal to comply with war labor board directives for employees' wage increases and maintenance of union membership.

Avery, remaining at company headquarters throughout the day, asserted the presidential order violated the constitution and the company could not "accept or obey."

Army public relations officers said no restrictions were placed on Avery's movements but the military position was that authority now rests with Gen. Joseph W. Byrnes, not Avery.

Roosevelt Angry  
President Roosevelt in an accompanying statement declared Avery guilty of "consistent and willful defiance" of WLB decisions, threatening the structure for impartial adjudication of disputes. He said the government "can not and will not tolerate any interference with production in this critical hour" and that Ward's would not be allowed to set aside government wartime policies "just because Mr. Sewell Avery does not approve of the government's procedure for handling labor disputes."

There was no physical or outward opposition to the army taking control in Chicago, Detroit, St. Paul, Denver, Jamaica, N. Y., Portland, Ore., and San Rafael, Calif.

## Casualties in Battle Grow

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Casualties in the armed forces increased 65,973 during the two weeks ended December 14, boosting the total losses to 628,441, the army and navy reported today.

The army's killed, wounded, missing and taken prisoner accounted for 547,823 of the total, an increase of 63,866. These figures, however, do not include the losses in the current German counteroffensive which Secretary of War Stimson said have been "severe."

Navy casualties amounted to 80,618, an increase of 5,107.

## GOP Dinner Planned

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Herbert Brownell, jr., Republican national chairman, today invited Republican members of congress to a dinner in Washington on January 4 in honor of the new Republican members of the senate and house.

## Normandy Invasion Selected Biggest News Story of '44

By Charles Honce  
AP Newsfeatures Writer  
"Flash," clattered the news ticker.

LONDON—Eisenhower's headquarters announce Allies land in France.

That—electrifying news came early on the morning of June 6. It was the news the American public had been expecting for months.

And it was the news which American editors of Associated Press newspapers (including the Oregon Statesman) voted the biggest story of 1944 (on the basis of news up to December 15).

A total of 176 ballots was received. First choice rated 5 points, second 4 points, third 3, fourth 2, fifth 1. Here is how the votes were cast:

- 1. Normandy invasion, 373.
- 2. FDR re-election, 327 1/2.
- 3. Philippine invasion, 438 1/2.
- 4. B-29 bombings, 197 1/2.

## Yanks Rip Clark Field on Luzon Island



Jap air power gets a jolt—Carrier-based planes of the Third fleet ripped Japanese ground installations in a strike on southern Luzon, Philippine islands. Enemy aircraft destroyed in this strike numbered 440. This photo shows the burning, bomb-blasted hangars of Clark Field, Luzon. In addition to the destroyed hangars, three oil storage tanks were set ablaze. (International)

## Stimson Confident Germans Will Reap Only 'Disastrous Consequences' From Gamble

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—(AP)—Secretary Stimson, though describing the present situation on the European front as "critical," expressed confidence today that the Germans will eventually reap "disastrous consequences" from their gambling counter offensive.

"War is not an easy game to play and you can't always win every battle," the war secretary told a news conference, "but I am confident that we are winning and that time will reveal that this German throw of the dice will have disastrous consequences for him."

The secretary acknowledged that American efforts to stem the German drive have cost us "several" casualties but asserted that the Nazi army, too, has "taken hard losses" in personnel and material.

Relay on Planes  
Indicating that the Allied high command is relying heavily on air superiority to throw back the German thrust, he said that aside from the fighting spirit of our troops "no other factor in the present situation means so much to us as flying weapons."

In the five-day period beginning Saturday, he reported, Allied airmen destroyed 483 German planes and 507 armored vehicles and destroyed or damaged 3177 motor vehicles. In addition, Stimson said, the enemy's machine-gun yards are "being blown to bits."

Allies Advance  
He emphasized the continuing advance of Allied flanking troops attempting to narrow the German offensive corridor in Belgium.

It is too early to predict, he said, what additional power the enemy may be able to throw into the salient and added that as long as any Nazi column progresses it would not be "appropriate to say that the Germans have been contained or that the danger is over."

## RAF Follows Up Day Raid

LONDON, Friday, Dec. 29.—(AP)—A big fleet of RAF heavy bombers blasted railway targets at Bonn and Munchen-Gladbach in Germany last night after a great daylight blitz by more than 3000 allied warplanes from Britain had pounded rail lines supplying Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's western salient.

While sleet cut off the erupting battlefront from close aerial support for the first time in six days, a lengthy skytrain of upwards of 1200 Fortresses and Liberators of the U. S. eighth air force scorched by 700 Mustangs and Thunderbolts dumped 3600 tons of bombs on 10 targets between the German salient and the Rhine.

Four American bombers were lost, but all the escorting fighters returned safely.

Weather  
Maximum temperature Thursday 50 degrees; minimum 35 degrees, 35 inch rain, river -3 ft.

## Budapest Suburbs Captured

Other Russians Race Within 58 Miles of Austria

LONDON, Friday, Dec. 29.—(AP)—Russian troops, tightening their trap on invaded Budapest, yesterday hurled the enemy out of 12 eastern suburbs two to four miles from the Hungarian capital as other mobile columns raced through the Danube valley to within 58 miles of Austria and 92 miles of Vienna.

Budapest was partly in flames, shelled heavily by Russian artillery and its installations dynamited by an enemy which Berlin admitted had retreated into the capital's "inner defenses."

Soviet troops, fighting street by street through Buda, western half of the Danubian capital, were within nine miles of a crosscity junction with other units slowly closing in on Pest, the eastern part of the city.

At times Junker transport planes attempted to fly in supplies as they did when Field Marshal Von Paulus's army was encircled and smashed at Stalingrad, but Soviet dispatches said that Red army planes dominated the skies over the doomed city.

On the eastern side of the capital the Russians were within two miles of the city limits, within six miles of the capital's heart, and also only four miles from the eastern end of Vasuti bridge, one of six spans across the Danube connecting Buda and Pest.

Other Soviet units which had invaded the western part of the city apparently were in control of the western approaches to Vasuti bridge in the Kelenfold district.

## Counties Seek 20% of Road Group Funds

Oregon County Judges association executive committee voted here Thursday to present to the 1945 legislature a bill providing that counties shall receive 20 per cent of the state highway commission funds with a floor of \$2,800,000 a year.

Currently counties receive 15.7 per cent of these funds with a floor of \$2,000,000.

A proposal that the public welfare commission reimburse counties which operate poor farms at costs in excess of the monies occupants would have received under the public assistance program.

## OPA Predicts Reduction in Retail Ceilings For Shoes, Repairing

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—(AP)—The OPA tonight predicted a cut in retail prices for shoes and shoe repairing, but said it could not estimate the extent.

Lower ceiling prices are expected to result, the agency said, from a reduction of producer and wholesale prices for leather, effective January 29.

Action to bring retail prices in line will be taken subsequently, OPA said.

## 73-year-old Woman Burned To Death at Scotts Mills

SCOTTS MILLS, Dec. 28.—Mrs. Mary Sloan, 73, was burned to death about 7:30 tonight when the two-story house in which she lived was destroyed by fire of unknown origin.

Mrs. Sloan had lived in Scotts Mills for several years, and occupied the second floor of the house which belonged to the Scott estate. The first floor was occupied by the L. F. Hills and their two children, Nancy, 11, and Jimmy, 6.

The children were alone in the Hill apartments when Nancy "saw fire falling from the ceiling" and ran for her parents who were at the service station a half a block away. The Hills got Jimmy out but were unable to reach Mrs. Sloan's quarters, reached by a stairway from the hall. Nothing was saved from the house.

The fire departments from Silverton, Mt. Angel and Monitor responded to the alarm. Because the house was so completely destroyed it was difficult to determine the cause of the fire. Firemen expressed the opinion it started around the cookstove in Mrs. Sloan's living room.

Mrs. Sloan had lived here for several years. Survivors include two sons, Paul Sloan of Kellogg, Idaho; and Seifert Sloan of Eugene. The body was taken in charge by Ekman's Mortuary of Silverton.

# Gen. Patton Hurls Lightning Blows At Enemy Forces

## German Spearheads Withdrawn; One Force Cut Off With Many Prisoners Taken; First Strikes

PARIS, Friday, Dec. 29.—(AP)—Deep hacked by lightning blows from the US Third army under Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, toughest and most ruthless of the American field commanders, the German winter offensive appeared today to have had its back broken.

The German radio announced that Field Marshal Von Rundstedt's western and southern spearheads had been withdrawn "according to plan" as the result of furious counterattacks by both the American First and Third armies from the north, west and south.

Forward elements of the German northwestern tip were cut off from their main body by Americans in that sector, where 1000 prisoners were taken and heavy losses inflicted.

Long lines of prisoners also were being marched down roads on the Third army front, where Patton was personally shouting orders to his soldiers as he directed the battle.

Hammering gains up to 16 miles in six days through the wooded hills of Belgium and northern Luxembourg, Patton's powerful mobile army, punching up from the south, rescued the heroic American garrison at Bastogne and to the east beat back the German wave after it had swept to within 13 miles of Luxembourg's capital.

The hard-driving Patton, America's No. 1 tank general was given the job of stemming the enemy's surprise offensive three days after Von Rundstedt struck December 16 and tonight, Associated Press Correspondent Hawkins declared, it appeared the back of the German drive was broken.

Simultaneously, the US First army hit back savagely from the north, carving out gains of almost a mile and a half in the northwest corner of the German salient pointed toward the fortress of Liege and the allied feeder highways to the port of Antwerp.

These twin developments, fraught with peril for the German plan to split the allied armies and slash across their lifelines, presumably were up to noon yesterday, and subsequent developments shrouded in a security blackout may have marked up more gains.

One thing was clear. Today, the 13th since the Germans rolled out of the reach and through the thin-held American lines in the Ardennes, was the first that no enemy gains were reported.

On the contrary, the three German armies committed to the winter offensive were either being held or driven back along the entire 200-mile perimeter of its salient in western Belgium and northern Luxembourg.

Reports indicated that the bulk of Von Rundstedt's two armored armies were being hauled back from the deep salients near the Meuse river 35 miles or more northwest of Bastogne.

Associated Press Correspondent Edward D. Ball said that Patton, the slashing hero of the Sicily blitz and the race across France, swung into action immediately after being handed the fateful task of stemming the German offensive.

The pistol packin' three-star general sized up the situation quickly, and "in record time men and armor were rolling in a swelling tide toward the critical front," Ball declared.

Palmer will be in charge of the Portland district office of the service. Operations of the service there are especially needed because of the greater number of returning disabled veterans and of the existing manpower shortage, board members said.

## Stickers Must Be on Jan. 1

New windshield stickers validating 1945 motor vehicle registrations are required by law to be affixed to vehicles on and after January 1, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell, jr., warned here Thursday.

More than 250,000 motorists must obtain those stickers between now and the first of the new year to comply with the law, he declared, pointing out that 165,376 applications had been received. Motorists retain 1942 license plates.

## Oregon Goes Well Over Its E Bond Goal in 6th Loan

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 28.—(AP) Oregon reached and passed its goal for E bonds in the sixth war loan drive tonight Edward C. Sammons, state chairman, announced.

Sammons said \$34,785,000 in bonds cleared the federal reserve bank in San Francisco, \$785,000 over the quota. Also, the state was well over the top in its quota for bonds of all types, with \$180,000,000 against a \$107,000,000 quota.