

**IT SEEMS TO ME**  
By Charles S. Sprague

# The Oregon Statesman

FOUNDED 1851

**Weather**  
Maximum temperature Thursday 49 degrees, minimum 39 degrees, 28 rain, river - 7 ft.  
Cloudy with occasional rain west and light rain or snow flurries east portion Friday and Saturday. Warmer southwest portion Friday.

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## FIRST ARMY STRIKES HARD

### Yanks Blasting Formosa; Folkes Dies This Morning

#### Assaults Run Into 2nd Day

**U.S. Airmen Sink Or Damage 35 More Nip Ships**

By the Associated Press  
United States third fleet carrier planes blasted Formosa and Okinawa island in Japan's southwestern front yard Wednesday (U.S. time) for the second straight day, Pearl Harbor headquarters announced yesterday, adding to Japan's admitted fear of "daring offensives" to come.

The communiqués gave no details of the bold American naval air thrust at Formosa and Okinawa, in the Ryukyu chain, but Tokyo said that 500 planes raided the islands the first day and 400 hit them again Wednesday.

The enemy radio declared that the "daring enemy forays" were obviously intended to facilitate "a quick decision in the Philippines" and an attempt to "sever our air supply routes to the Philippines."

American airmen operating from central Philippines army fields sank or damaged 35 Japanese war and merchant vessels of Luzon island Tuesday and Wednesday (Philippine time), Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported, for a total of 60 enemy craft hit in that area the first three days of the year.

Included in the two-day total of blasted Nipponese shipping were 25 freighters and transports hunted down in Lingayen gulf and Subic Bay, aggregating 57,000 tons; a seaplane carrier, three escort vessels, a coastal ship and five luggers.

American flyers destroyed 20 Japanese planes on the ground in another attack on Clark field, northwest of Manila. The Nipponese retaliated savagely with five raids Tuesday night on the Yank airfield on Mindoro island, damaging installations.

#### Hitler Surveys Damage



Adolf Hitler, sea-faced, surveys war damage in an undesignated town in company with a group of Nazi officers. This photo is from a German film captured by the U. S. army signal corps on the western front. Officers with Hitler are unidentified. Date of this scene is not known. (AP wirephoto from signal corps)

### Byrnes' Plan to Draft 4-F's Brings Protest From Labor

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—(AP)—James F. Byrnes' proposed new, tough manpower policy tonight evoked a cascade of protest in labor circles and on Capitol Hill.

Union publications sharply criticized the war mobilizer's proposal to draft 4-Fs for war jobs. Members of house and senate levelled their attack on the order to screen young farm workers again for possible military service.

The publication "Labor," organ of the railroad brotherhoods, accused Byrnes of acting like "a bull in a china shop." It said a confidential memorandum circulated in one of the war agencies denied there is a shortage. The AFL weekly news service assailed methods "to drag manpower."

A survey of state officers of the WMC and the U. S. employment service revealed meaning that thousands of 4-Fs are applying for war jobs since the proposed draft was made known.

### Execution Set For 9 O'clock

**Negro Loses His Last Court Plea But Stays Calm**

Barring a zero-hour grant of clemency from Gov. Earl Snell, Robert E. Lee Folkes will enter the state's lethal gas chamber at 9 o'clock this morning to pay for the "lower 13" slaying.

The 23-year-old negro lost his last court pleas Thursday when Circuit Judge E. M. Page and Federal Judge James A. Fee refused requests for writs of habeas corpus. Nicholas Granoff, Portland attorney, vainly sought the writ from state supreme, federal and circuit courts, claiming there were errors in Folkes' original trial at Albany.

Originally sentenced to die May 28, 1943, he has remained in the prison while action was delayed on appeal. Early last month he was resentence to die today in the gas chamber.

Folkes has accepted the ministrations of a prison chaplain, who will accompany him to the door of the chamber this morning.

Warden George Alexander said the young negro was without nervousness and showing a good appetite Thursday.

The execution has been set a half-hour later than previous executions so that other prisoners may be turned out into the penitentiary yards in daylight. Officials said this action might prevent a demonstration.

### Quarter of Million Christmas Gifts Captured by Nazis

PARIS, Friday, Jan. 5.—(AP)—A quarter million Christmas packages for soldiers on the continent, one percent of the total Yule gifts received on this side of the ocean, were lost through enemy action, the European theater post office division disclosed last night.

Enemy action also destroyed about 6000 packages mailed by soldiers to addresses in the United States. No letters were lost either going or coming, postal officers said.

During the pre-Christmas rush, army post offices handled 25 million packages and approximately 220 million letters.

### Germans Try Hard to Help Budapest Nazis

LONDON, Friday, Jan. 5.—(AP)—Six German armored divisions, "several" infantry divisions and strong units of the luftwaffe have been hurled at Russian forces in northwestern Hungary in an attempt to relieve the Nazi garrison trapped in beleaguered Budapest, Moscow announced last night.

The Soviet report indicated that the German counterattacks have developed into massive clashes of armor and airpower somewhere between the Hungarian capital and the borders of Austria on the east and Czechoslovakia on the north.

The Soviet communique broadcast from Moscow did not state where the German attacks were made or what points the Germans advanced, if any, had reached.

In one clash on the south bank of the Danube yesterday, an early morning report from the Soviet capital said, more than 1500 German men were slain and 53 tanks and mobile guns, 16 armored troop carriers and 80 trucks were destroyed.

### Yanks Grind Out 3 1/2 Mile Advance In Heavy Blizzard

**Hodges' Forces Within 12 Miles Of Juncture With Patton's Men; U.S. Artillery Hampering Nazis**

**By AUSTIN BEALMEAR**  
PARIS, Jan. 4.—(AP)—US First army armor and infantry struck through a raging blizzard today on a 17-mile front, grinding out gains up to three and a half miles which put them scarcely 12 miles from where the Third army was hammering back an enemy onslaught led by 100 tanks.

Berlin broadcasts said British tanks and the US Ninth army had joined the offensive on the north, and the US Seventh entered the struggle from the south, indicating General Eisenhower was throwing such powerful forces into the battle that he had abandoned his winter drive into Germany.

The fury of the doughboy attack matched the fury of the elements. Three Belgian towns were engulfed, at least six others were entered, and the battle to drive the enemy from Belgium for the second time in four months was breaking inside the main German northern defenses.

On the south, the Third army stood up under great enemy blows without losing an inch of ground, then lashed out with half-mile gains both east and west of Bastogne which cut to three and a half miles the neck of a five-mile deep box between Bastogne and Wiltz, 10 miles to the east.

American artillery fire was bursting in the ranks of the Germans massed within the box, and dazed prisoners emerging from this mountainous inferno in northern Luxembourg told of company casualties as high as 75 percent.

The enemy lines at the tip of the Belgian triangle were giving way, the village of Bure, four miles southeast of Rochefort, was overrun, and a field dispatch said the enemy appeared to be pulling out of his dearly-won apex running westward from Bastogne.

There was little sign of enemy armor anywhere west of a line running north from Bastogne, and allied forces driving in from the northwest between Marche and Rochefort found the Germans were pulling back.

### Blue Lake Will Construct New \$350,000 Plant

Blue Lake Producers' cooperative will, without delay, build and equip a new fireproof cannery, at an estimated cost of \$350,000, directors announced Thursday. The announcement of plans for almost immediate construction of a 260-by-300-foot building of reinforced concrete came following a meeting of the board at which Lyle P. Bartholomew, Salem, was employed as architect.

Debris from Sunday morning's fire which destroyed the frame cannery buildings is being cleared away in preparation for beginning of construction.

Albert Lamb, assistant general manager, said that O. E. Snider, manager, in Washington, D. C., at the time of the fire, was to meet Thursday with representatives of an equipment company in Niagara Falls, N. Y., to return then to Washington to continue negotiations for the emergency construction permit he has been assured will be issued.

Once the emergency permit has been granted, the cooperative will be expected to start work within 10 days and will have another 10 days in which to file completed plans.

### Britain Eases Italian Policy At U.S. Urge

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—(AP)—American insistence, it was revealed today, has led Britain to modify a strong position against early industrial rehabilitation for Italy, but nothing much has come of the modification so far.

### Greek Premier Tells ELAS to Accept Terms

ATHENS, Jan. 4.—(AP)—The new-formed cabinet of Premier Nicholas Plastiras announced tonight that before parleys begin with the ELAS forces they must accept the military terms of Lt. Gen. Ronald M. Scobie, British commander in Greece.

John Sofianopoulos, the new foreign minister, followed the almost identical line of the previous cabinet of George Papandreu, typifying the ELAS, armed militia of the left-wing EAM, as a "minority."

Sofianopoulos stated lately that "the government is determined to impose law and order."

His statement followed an appeal by Plastiras to the EAM party and the ELAS to lay down arms. The appeal should eliminate any professed fear of dictatorship. It was Plastiras' first public move to end the civil war since he accepted the premiership from the new regent, Archbishop Damaskinos of Athens.

### Nomura Tells Japs to Keep On Fighting

By the Associated Press  
Adm. Kichisaburo Nomura, former Japanese ambassador to the United States, has told the Japanese people they can end the war only by fighting until America realizes that "Japan is a country that cannot be crushed."

### Bombers Hit Brenner Pass

LONDON, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Bombers of the U. S. 15th air force based in Italy, going into action for the first time in five days, blasted the Brenner pass and communications in northern Italy today, but snow and fog enveloped the western front held back allied air power based in Britain and on the continent.

The German radio tonight indicated that Berlin was under attack by the RAF when communications controlled from the capital were silenced.

### Statehouse Cleared for Biennial Action as Session Nears; Legislators Finding Homes

By Wendell Webb  
Managing editor, The Statesman  
The Oregon statehouse was cleared for biennial action today and combatants for the 43rd legislative fracas already were arriving.

### Pole Towns Destroyed

LONDON, Jan. 4.—(AP)—The Germans have destroyed the southern Polish towns of Opatow and Jaslo by fire and have gutted neighboring villages, the Polish telegraph agency reported today.

### U.S. Casualties In Nazi Drive Hard to Obtain

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Secretary of War Stimson said today that "it will be some time before an accurate record" of American losses in men and material in the Ardennes battle can be established.

He told a news conference that an accurate statement of total casualties resulting from the German breakthrough had not yet been received from allied supreme headquarters. His explanation was this:

"When casualties remain within your own lines the problem is not too difficult except during landing operations in the dark where there is usually great confusion as to the whereabouts of individuals, but in a retirement the problem is made exceedingly difficult for the company and regimental officers on whom the battle depends."

First of a series of three meetings on "education and international relations," scheduled for presentation this winter on the Willamette university campus, has been set for Wednesday night, January 24.

### WU Schedules Public Forums

Frank Parr, executive secretary of the Oregon State Teachers' association, will handle the discussion of "Education and the People's Peace" at that session.

The meetings are to be open to the public. They will be under joint auspices of the Willamette department of education, Marion county division of the OSTA and Delta Kappa Gamma honorary education fraternity.

### Lay Aside Partisan Politics Says Texan

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—(AP)—"I'm not going to engage in carrying criticism of our allies," rep. Patman (D-Tex.) declared today in asking congress to lay aside partisan politics during the war.

### Swiss Resent Action of U.S.

BERN, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Switzerland took the view tonight following a Washington announcement that she has been cut off from supplies, that the United States, in effect, sought to force her to become a weapon against Germany.

A Swiss government spokesman said his country's existence has been endangered by the United States move, which Washington sources said was brought about by too much Swiss economic help for the Nazis.

### Three Nazi Prisoners Of War Make Escape

FRESNO, Calif., Jan. 4.—(AP)—Eluding shots from the guns of guards, three German prisoners of war scaled a fence at the Coronan camp 57 miles south of here and escaped, the FBI announced today.

### Sales in Record Breaking 6th War Loan \$21,621,000,000

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—(AP)—Total sales in the record-smashing sixth war loan drive were announced today as \$21,621,000,000.

This was not a new record but it was more than many treasury officials had dared to hope. The "sixth" was not only the first Yule season drive, but it marked the first time three drives had been held in one year.