

**IT SEEMS TO ME**

By Charles A. Stroup

The director of the office of defense transportation, J. Monroe Johnson, has lowered the boom on civilian use of railroads until some traffic snarls are straightened out. He imposed a three-day day ban on commercial loadings, directed roads to drop passenger service if necessary to clear freight accumulations and highballed the clearing of empties out of congested areas. These directions were really not orders but doubtless will be observed by the roads voluntarily. The immediate cause of the critical congestion is the bad weather which has interfered with rail operations in certain sections of the country.

What I would call attention to is not the current railroad stringency, although that is evidently serious enough to justify official action, but the excellent record the railroads have made in handling traffic of unprecedented volume. Those whose memories run back to the first world war will realize the superiority in railroad performance in this war. Then the government took the roads over.

In spite of (or because of) that take-over rail efficiency was nothing to brag of. There were delays in getting cars, congestions at terminals, and general difficulty in rail transportation. The situation grew worse in the period of the postwar boom of 1919-1920. When the roads were returned to private management efficiency was rapidly restored—it became the more necessary because of the falling off in business.

As a matter of history there were times during peace, not infrequent either, of

## Yankee Losses Since Invasion Reach 332,912

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—(AP)—The heavy fighting along the western front during December cost American ground forces 74,788 casualties, boosting total losses on that front since D-day to 332,912.

Secretary of War Stimson, releasing the figures today at his news conference, said the December losses included most of the 52,554 casualties previously reported during the first three weeks—December 15 to January 7—of the big German counter offensive in the Ardennes.

Against these American losses, Stimson estimated German casualties for the month at 110,000 to 130,000, including 50,000 taken prisoner by the allies.

Over-all army casualties during the war for all theatres as compiled by the war department up to January 7 and reflecting fighting up to the early part of December, Stimson said, are 580,495.

Coupled with the latest navy total of 83,364, this puts the U. S. combat casualties since Pearl Harbor at 663,859.

## Sen. Truman Unemployed

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—(AP)—Senator Truman (D-Mo) joined the ranks of the unemployed today, but he had the promise of a pretty good job coming up Saturday—vice president of the United States.

The stubby Missouri senator bowed out of service after 10 years in the senate, with some parting words of eulogy for a long-time friend, Sen. Francis Maloney (D-Conn) who died this week.

The vice president to be took a lot of good natured kidding from his friends, mixed with some horse play. Some of them wanted to know if he had clearance from the war manpower commission for transfer from an "essential" war job in the senate, to the "non-essential" work of being vice president.

## Ber License Ruling Sought

PORTLAND, Jan. 18.—(AP)—A request that beer licenses be refused any tavern operating slot machines, cards, pinball machines, or other illegal devices was before the Oregon liquor control commission today.

It was among five suggestions presented by a league of Oregon cities committee and represented the consensus of discussions at regional meetings in 175 cities. The list also asked for elimination of fortified wines and for a plan for treatment of alcoholics.

Other unofficial league recommendations requested that the commission devise a way to exclude minors from licensed premises and that the commission grant no licenses without the cities' approval.

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Weather

Location	Max.	Min.	Rain
San Francisco	54	35	50
Eugene	47	27	50
Salem	47	27	50
Portland	50	40	50
Seattle	45	40	50
Willamette river	9 ft. 6 in.		

# REDS AT SILESIAN BORDER

## British Advance 2½ Miles

### U.S. Third Army Opens New Push In Luxembourg

By Austin Bealmer  
PARIS, Jan. 18.—(AP)—The British Second army, backed by American heavy artillery, slugged out gains of two and a half miles today and overran four towns as its drive on a 29-mile front in western Germany's approaches to the Rhine rose in scope and intensity.

Simultaneously the US Third army opened a new assault in northern Luxembourg, broke across the Sure river on a seven-mile front and plunged on two miles into the mountainous defenses on which the enemy must rely to hold his shrunken positions in Belgium.

With some infantry wearing white camouflage suits such as those worn on the Russian front, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's doughboys fought into Diekirch, 17 miles northeast of Luxembourg city, and Bettendorf, three miles east, while other forces seized strategic heights beyond.

As Patton struck here in two-division strength with assaults that carried all the way to the German border, Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' First army on the northern shoulder was forced back 200 yards at one point due north of St. Vith but the 30th infantry was slowly closing on that transport center from positions four miles away.

Nazis Hit Hard  
Between the southern Luxembourg border and the Saar basin, the Germans struck savagely with tanks against the Third army's 94th infantry division in Butzdorf. The doughboys knocked out six tanks but still the enemy came on and sharp fighting raged tonight.

Another American setback came on the Rhine front in northeastern France, where the Germans threw armor and infantry into their bridgehead eight miles north of Strasbourg and forced Seventh army doughboys from the towns of Herrlisheim, 11 miles north of the Alsatian capital, and Sessenheim, five miles farther north.

Over-all army casualties during the war for all theatres as compiled by the war department up to January 7 and reflecting fighting up to the early part of December, Stimson said, are 580,495.

## Underground Ready To Help U.S. in China

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—(AP)—When American forces land on the Japanese-occupied coast of China, the underground will be waiting to help them.

This is the prediction of Dr. Chen Chia-mai, counselor of the Chinese embassy here, who until a few months ago was detailed by the Chinese government to train and supervise underground workers in occupied China.

The strength of the underground, he says, lies in the petty officials who have remained behind Japanese lines to keep a symbol of their government before the Chinese people. The central government still has Kuomintang (national party) officials administering local affairs in about three-fourth of the counties the Japanese are supposed to occupy, and underground agents, at least, in the rest, he says.

## California Feels Quake

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 18.—(AP)—Two sharp earth shocks in rapid succession were felt in this area tonight at about 10:13 p. m. (PWT). No damage was reported.

## Henry Semon Formally Named Guard on Sin and Shenanigans

A two-foot stepladder, a periscope and Rep. Henry Semon of Klamath Falls constituted new hazards today for any senators which might even think of sin or shenanigans at the Marion hotel. The house Thursday afternoon, in a few minutes' respite from its solemnity, was the scene of the ladder-periscope presentation to Semon, a member of the house committee on health and public morals, of the sub-committee on morals of the Marion hotel.

The title was bestowed, as was the investigative paraphernalia, by Rep. Harvey Wells, house committee chairman, who advised Semon to "watch particularly after the senate members."

## Americans Return to Luzon



American soldiers and their equipment roll ashore on Luzon island in the Philippines from ships which fill Lingayen gulf (background). A bulldozer, workhorse of both the army and navy, lost no time getting into action (foreground). (AP wirephoto)

## Churchill Says All Europe Battle Fronts Will Remain In Flames Until War's End

By John F. Chester  
LONDON, Jan. 18.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill, proclaiming the "military solidarity of the three great Allies," declared today that the entire eastern, western and Italian fronts will henceforth be kept "in constant flame until the final climax is reached."

He called on Germany and Japan to capitulate now. Although standing firmly upon the Allies' terms of "unconditional surrender," Churchill pointed out to the enemy that enforcement of these terms "in no way relieves the victorious powers of all their obligations to humanity, or of their duties as civilized and Christian nations."

"This at least," Churchill declared, "I can say on behalf of the united nations to Germany. If you surrender now, nothing you will have to endure after the war will be comparable to what you are otherwise going to suffer during 1945."

"Peace, though based on unconditional surrender," will bring to Germany and Japan an immense and immediate alleviation of the suffering and agony which now lies before them."

Addressing the house of commons for two hours in one of the greatest of the many great speeches of his career, Churchill—sometimes bitter and pugnacious, sometimes smooth and conciliatory—discussed British-Soviet relations, Greece, Yugoslavia, Italy, the military picture, "spheres of influence" and Britain's over-all aims.

Praises Yanks  
In a sweeping bow to the American doughboy, Churchill said that the Yanks in reversing Germany's winter offensive in the Ardennes had "done almost all the fighting and suffered almost all the losses" in "what is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war."

American losses, he said, were at a ratio of 60 to 80 to 1 compared with the British fighting in the bulge. "Care must be taken in telling our proud tale not to claim for the British armies an undue share" of the credit for the battle, the prime minister added.

## RAF Supports Soviet Drive

LONDON, Jan. 18.—(AP)—The German radio reported that allied bomber formations were ranging over upper and lower Silesia tonight, indicating that the RAF had gone to the support of the Russian onslaught by hammering enemy supply lines on the eastern front.

Prague in Czechoslovakia left the air after signaling the approach of enemy bombers. The force possibly could be from Italy, but it was more likely that Lancasters were hitting Silesia after a long journey from England. Russian night bombers might also be in action.

## Sir Ronald Ian Campbell Receives High Position

LONDON, Jan. 18.—(AP)—Sir Ronald Ian Campbell, British minister in Washington, has been appointed assistant under-secretary of state in the British foreign office.

Campbell is being succeeded in Washington by John Balfour, now minister in Moscow.

## School, Milk Bills Entered

### Labor Measures Also Hit Legislature in Busy Day

Measures on labor, education, pasteurization and forestry hit the 53rd legislative assembly in rat-a-tat order Thursday, and left both senate and house with few complaints today as to the scarcity of business before them.

New introductions facing the senate included bills providing for a second-injury fund, barring pay discrimination between sexes, calling for collective bargaining of public employes, compelling workmen's compensation in hazardous work, regulating public utility districts, and a memorial asking compulsory military training. School funds sought.

Tossed at the house were measures asking \$3,000,000 more for the \$5,000,000 school support fund, providing for the creation of rural school districts, prohibiting the sale of unpasteurized milk except that bottled on the premises, appropriating \$50,000 annually for the control of insect pests and plant diseases, and prohibiting the return of once-sold bakery goods.

Also ready for a tussle with the house today was senate joint resolution 4, providing for the five-man probe of the Oregon liquor business, which was referred to the house alcoholic control committee Thursday without comment.

Licenses Extended  
Passed by the house was the measure extending until July 1, 1947, currently-valid operators' licenses, and another to compel traffic recognition of white canes to be used solely by the blind.

Before legislative committees were such measures as those providing for a title on the part of state departments, a new \$5,000,000 school equalization fund, increased salaries for county school superintendents.

(Legislative news page 10)

## Nazis Admit Soviets Reach Reich Border

LONDON, Jan. 18.—(AP)—The Germans admitted tonight that the Russian winter offensive—"sweeping across Poland like an ocean of flames"—had reached the border of Germany and that their chief hope of stopping it was simply for the drive to spend itself.

Two Nazi frontline correspondents reported Marshal Ivan Konev's vanguards had reached the German frontier of upper Silesia and that the Volkssturm—"men over 50 and youths of 16"—were helping the regular German army try to stem the tide.

These admissions of Berlin broadcasts came at the close of another day unrelieved of German gloom in which the best the Nazi military commentators could promise the homefolk was that the Russians sometimes would have to stop to regroup.

## FDR Working On Address

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—(AP)—President Roosevelt got busy today on the nutshell inaugural address he will deliver Saturday.

Because this is wartime, the whole inauguration ceremony will be compressed into 20 minutes and the speech into five. So Mr. Roosevelt is trying to confine his oratory to 500 words.

The committee handling all the myriad details of the inauguration met at the White House in the afternoon and settled odds and ends of problems that always bob up at the last minute. In another room, the White House Correspondents' association started issuing press credentials.

## Light Rain Showers

today in the mid-willamette valley area, predicts U. S. weather bureau at McNary field, Salem.

## Yank Fighter Ace, Missing in Action, Returns to Ship

ABOARD 7TH FLEET FLAGSHIP OFF LUZON, Friday, Jan. 19.—(AP)—"Indestructible" Alex Vraciu, bemedaled fighter pilot hero of the first Philippine sea battle last June, who has been missing since December 14 when shot down over Luzon, strolled up the gangway of this flagship today.

He wore the same old grin but it was framed in an inch-long beard. Dangling from his shoulder was a Japanese saber, in his hand a Japanese pistol, both souvenirs of his latest exploit—five weeks of guerrilla leadership in enemy territory.

## Cooking Fats Go Back, Ration Shelf Monday

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—(AP)—The OPA tonight ordered a three-day "freeze" of retail sales of lard, other shortening and salad and cooking oils, preparatory to resuming rationing of these commodities next Monday.

The sales freeze is effective at 12:01 a. m. Friday and will continue to the start of rationing at 12:01 Monday.

In a companion move, the war food administration ordered 40 per cent of total lard production set aside to meet military requirements.

A ration value of two points a pound was set for all of the commodities affected.

Red ration stamps will be used hereafter for the purchase of lard and other cooking fats and oils.

## British Drive Near to Edge Of Mandalay

CALCUTTA, Jan. 18.—(AP)—British patrols have splashed almost to the edge of Mandalay where the Japanese are feverishly digging in along a new line anchored on this second largest city of Burma, front dispatches to allied headquarters said today.

Japanese forces are digging into jungle positions across an arc of land near the city along a big, right-angle bend in the Irrawaddy river, patrols of Lt. Gen. William J. Slim's British 14th army reported.

The main Japanese forces have withdrawn to the east of the Irrawaddy—the side of the river on which Mandalay is situated—and the enemy is ferrying more equipment from the west to the east bank.

## 2 Mid-Willamette Valley Men Killed in Action

The names of two mid-Willamette valley men included in the list of Oregon men killed in action. From the Mediterranean area the name of Pfc. Thomas Collins, Jr., whose wife is Mrs. Faunlet Fay Collins, route one, box 173, Gervais.

From the Southwest Pacific area Sgt. Woodrow A. Roy, whose sister is Mrs. Leola A. Christopher, 717 Broadalbin street, Albany.

Food production this year is just as essential to our nation's war effort as it was in 1944, Ernest E. Henry, president of the Production Credit Corporation of Spokane, told members of the Willamette Production Credit association at their annual meeting held Thursday at the American Legion hall.

"Even though the European phase of the war should end prior to the 1945 harvest season, we still must erase the Japanese menace in the Southwest Pacific," said the speaker. "Our farm front is just as essential as the battle front and it is our responsibility to make certain that we have plenty of food for our armed forces, for

## History's Greatest Offensive Roars Through Poland

### Surging Russians Capture 2000 Towns, Advance 30 Miles in 24 Hours, Reach Krakow Suburbs

By W. W. HERCHER  
LONDON, Friday, Jan. 19.—(AP)—The German radio reported last night that the red army had reached the Silesian frontier 250 miles southeast of Berlin as soviet formations in history's greatest offensive ripped through Nazi



Arrows indicate red army drives south and west of Warsaw where, it was believed, Russian forces may already have driven into Germany's rich industrial section of Silesia. North of the salient in the Czecho-Slovakia area, other Russian forces converged on Lodz. Broken line is front. Germany's pre-war border is shaded. (AP wirephoto map)

defenses clear across Poland, capturing nearly 2000 localities with 30-mile advances in 24 hours. The Russians drove into the outskirts of Krakow, big bastion in the southwest, reached the area of Lodz, Poland's second city, on three sides, and drove to within 13 miles of lower German East Prussia.

(A Berlin broadcast early today, recorded by CBS, said "Krakow has been evacuated.") Moscow announced the capture of Szarleyka, 12 miles from the Silesian frontier and four miles northwest of Czechochowa, but did not confirm the Berlin report that the border had been reached. Other dispatches said that Soviet spearheads however, already had crossed into industrially-rich Silesia, Germany's "Ruhr of the east," and a Moscow dispatch said that Soviet planes and artillery were laying down a terrific barrage on German soil.

Volkssturm Fights  
The Silesian Volkssturm, or home army of over-age and physically poor recruits, already has received its baptism of fire during this hour of greatest danger as the enemy reached the Reich border," said Berlin radio.

Striking powerfully in northern Poland the second white Russian army overran more than 1000 localities. It pushed to within 13 miles of lower east Prussia and with the seizure of Drogiczka, nine miles south of the road junction of Mlawka, and 119 miles from Danzig on the Baltic. Gain 40 Miles

In central Poland the first white Russian army drove to within 260 miles of Berlin in an advance 40 miles west of fallen Warsaw, capturing 500 towns and villages and spearing to within 30 miles of Lodz.

The first Ukraine army, hitting from the south, drove to within 22 miles of imperilled Lodz, and was reported officially to be within 12 to 40 miles of the Silesian frontier on a 65-mile front between Czechochowa and Krakow sectors. This army captured 453 localities during the day. It also captured the commander of the 17th German tank division, Colonel Bruck, and his staff.

Conflict Raging  
The frontier conflict apparently raged west of Czechochowa, captured yesterday by the Russians, in an area only 78 miles from Breslau, Silesian capital. A Berlin report to the Stockholm Aftonbladet said that Breslau, 170 miles southeast of Berlin, "is now directly in the danger zone."

The Russians, estimated at 2,500,000 men, also reached the immediate approaches on three sides of Lodz, "Poland's Pittsburgh" and second city 70 miles southwest of captured Warsaw, and Berlin said other red troops had broken into the suburban streets of Krakow, big axis bastion in the southwestern corner of Poland.

(Additional story on page 14)