

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

The text for this morning is: "To the hills of Oregon I lift mine eyes - and see the stumps."

While we are turning here and there for postwar projects, while we are concerned over the swift cutting of virgin forests, while we read with concern of the closing of sawmills that have operated for well over half a century, we are making only a feeble effort to tackle the big problem, and to seize the big opportunity that is visible whenever we look at the cutover lands of Oregon.

Some years ago I went on an airplane flight over northwest Oregon. Below was a virtual economic desert. Only here and there "green islands" of trees appeared in the midst of the grey waste of snags and stumps.

The axe and saw are steadily gnawing at the forests along the Cascades and Coast range and at the pine forests of eastern Oregon.

Fortunately a good start has been made. Legislative policy has been

(Continued on Editorial page)

Patterson Asks Quick Passage Of Service Bill

By Francis J. Kelly

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. (AP)—Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson pleaded urgently today for passage of a manpower control bill, telling senators "no one is entitled to a free ride in this war."

"Half hearted mobilization is not the way to bring about unconditional surrender at minimum cost in lives," he told the senate military affairs committee which began belated hearings today on the house-approved work-or-jail bill.

"The fighting men are doing the hard part. They should be given all-out support at home."

Patterson's testimony was given behind closed doors, as was that of his chief secretary of war Stimson, but later was made public by chairman Thomas (D-Utah).

New Fighter Plane Looks All Backward

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (AP)—A fast, highly maneuverable fighter plane that appears to fly backward is being tested by Curtiss Wright Corp., C. W. Vaughan, president, announced today.

First flown in July, 1943, at Scott Field, Ill., the odd-looking XP-53 airplane is reverse developed on Curtiss-Wright's St. Louis plant early in the war has been cloaked in military secrecy until today.

The whole thing looks backward compared with conventional design: The 1275-horsepower Allison engine and the Fisher propeller are behind the pilot; the wings also are near the rear; the elevator control surfaces found in the tail assembly of a present-day plane are forward; the rudders are mounted near the tips of wings which angle sharply from beneath the single-place cockpit.

Work or Jail Not Necessary

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 6. (AP)—Oregon war manpower director Lee C. Stoll declared today there is "no excuse for any talk at this time about 'work-or-fight' legislation" so far as Oregon is concerned.

Labor needs in the Portland area have "definitely eased" and will be drastically reduced by June 30, he told a businessmen's club, adding that Oregon is no longer a "mecca for job seekers."

"As to the 'work or fight' bill," Stoll said, "there could be no more muddled mess accomplished than for the draft boards in the state of Oregon to freeze men in war plants based on their own judgment."

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Japs Put Torch to Manila Business District

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SOVIETS BEYOND ODER

Reds Drive 12 1/2 Miles Past River In Breslau Sector

Germany Says Water Barrier Forded in Two Other Areas; Moscow Silent on Zhukov Army

By W. W. HERCHER

LONDON, Wednesday, Feb. 7. (AP)—The red army has stormed across the Oder southeast of Breslau and penetrated 12 1/2 miles beyond its west bank on a 50-mile front, Moscow announced last night, while German reports said the water barrier protecting Berlin and the heart of the reich had been crossed by the Russians in two other sectors as well.

Broadcasts from Berlin, again reporting soviet successes long before their confirmation by Moscow, placed red army units west of the Oder northeast of Berlin, perhaps less than 30 miles from the battered capital, and northwest of Breslau in the area of Steinau, a Silesian city which the Germans said they had evacuated.

The announcement of the Silesian crossing, made first in an order of the day by Marshal Stalin and repeated in the nightly communique broadcast from Moscow, broke the silence that had blanketed operations of Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukraine army for several days.

But as the spotlight returned to Konev's forces, Moscow fell silent regarding Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's first white Russian army deployed along the river farther north.

General Captured The communique's only reference to this army was a statement that it had captured a Lt. Gen. Luebbe, commander of the 433rd German infantry.

Konev's drive across the Oder, it said, captured Brieg, 24 miles southeast of Breslau; Ohlau, nine miles northwest of Brieg and on the Oder's west bank; Grottkau, south of Brieg and 10 miles west of the Oder, and Thomaskirch, southwest of Ohlau and seven and one-half miles southwest of the river.

Also taken were Loewen and Schurgast, both approximately nine miles southeast of Brieg. Konev's front west of the Oder thus extended from captured Oppeln, capital of upper (southern) Silesia, northwest to Breslau.

His offensive had been reported earlier by Berlin commentators, who said it might indicate a drive on Dresden, 160 miles to the west, as well as a move to outflank Breslau.

But German accounts stated this was not the only sector in which the Red army had crossed the Oder.

Broadcasts from Berlin said the river had been forced at six or more places in the Kustrian-Frankfurt sector, northeast and directly east of Berlin.

Nurse Shortage May Close Albany Hospital ALBANY, Feb. 6. (AP)—The Albany General hospital faces closure because of the scarcity of nurses, Clara Feil, superintendent, said today.

The 52-bed hospital now has only three nurses and three nurses aides, she said in an appeal for volunteer workers.

Hitler Preparing for Last Ditch Fight in Munich Area

By Thomas F. Hawkins BERN, Feb. 6. (AP)—New arrivals from Germany reported today that tremendous new stocks of supplies were being poured into mountain strongholds in the Munich area, where Adolf Hitler is preparing a last-ditch defense when Berlin and northern Germany are conquered.

Gestapo Chief Heinrich Himmler, these sources said, will join Hitler in his mountain-top stronghold at Berchtesgaden after he conducts the defense of Berlin. He will aid in the command of thousands of fanatical nazis expected to fight to the last to defend the Fuehrer.

These travelers from Berlin and other parts of the reich, who bring a fantastic array of rumors, reports, facts and half-truths, said that some leading nazis were expected to flee or bargain for their freedom, but that preparation for the last stand was going forward at top speed.

Americans Gain in West

Survey Of Tax Favored

Senate Also Refuses to Change Anti-OPA Vote

The Oregon senate was on record today favoring a complete study of the state's tax structure by a group of "nationally-recognized experts," as requested by Gov. Earl Snell in his biennial message.

The joint resolution (SJR 2) was almost identical with the proposal turned down two weeks ago. It now goes to the house.

The senate Tuesday also passed a bill lengthening the time between candidates' filings and elections (HB 2), to facilitate getting ballots to service men, and refused by a vote of 15 to 14 to reconsider its approval of a measure asking abolition of the OPA after the war.

Memorial Defeated The house's major action Tuesday constituted refusals (HJM 6) to petition congress for special consideration of draft-threatened Oregon farm labor and (HB 125) to pass a special law compelling taverns to keep fully lighted and dispense with screens or partitions.

Introduced in the senate was a bill (SB 160) to compel all imported or brandy-fortified wines (except sacramental) to be sold in liquor stores. The lone new introduction in the house Tuesday was a bill (HB 346) providing for changes in laws specifying who may sign applications in regard to county roads.

Troops Congratulated Both the senate and house voted to congratulate Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his men on their victories in the Philippines.

Several liquor-control measures will be considered in the senate today, and the controversial civil rights bill will come up at 10:30 a. m.

The house is scheduled to take final action on such measures as SB 24, increasing from \$3 to \$4 a day the pay of election workers; HB 218 granting \$100,000 for forest purchases; HB 225, to compel vitamin-enrichment of flour; HB 228, raising minimum pay of teachers; HB 342, preferential hiring of veterans.

(Legislative news on page 10).

Alan Lightner Said Missing

Cpl. Alan Lightner, former Salem Senators' baseball player and Fort Lewis basketball star, has been missing in action in the European theatre of operations since January 12, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Lightner, employees of the state hospital, were notified Tuesday night.

Lightner, a brother of Statesman Sports Editor Al Lightner, was employed by army engineers at the Salem air base prior to entering the army. He was a member of the 70th (Trailblazer) division. The war department telegram carried no details.

(Picture on page 2.)

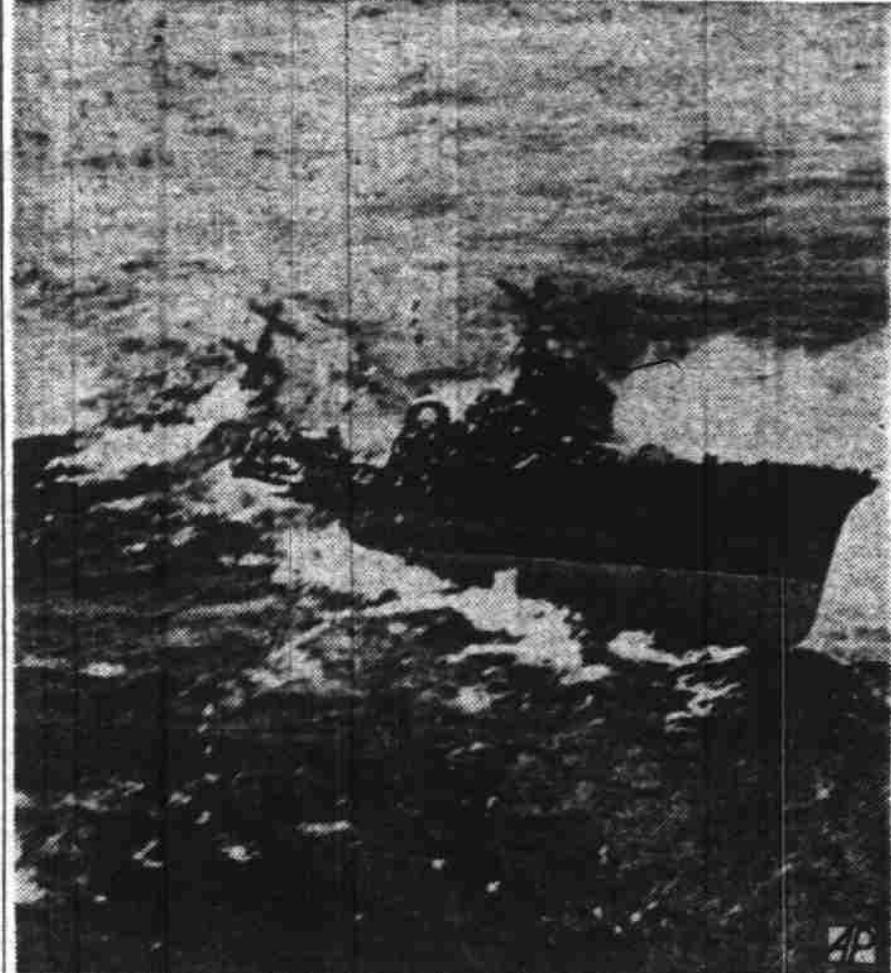
Navy May Get 18-Inch Gun

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. (AP)—The U. S. fleet may have something larger than 16-inch guns to blast the Japanese out of the Pacific.

The naval proving ground at nearby Dahlgren, Va., has undertaken a new construction project which includes, Rep. Daughton (D-Va.) said today, a "gun emplacement for an 18-inch caliber gun."

The information was contained in a routine memorandum to Daughton from Vice Admiral Ben Morrell, chief of the bureau of ships and docks.

Japanese Abandon Cruiser



Japanese sailors go over the side forward and aft as this cruiser heads for the bottom of the sea off the French Indo-China coast after an attack by American carrier-based planes. (AP wirephoto)

British Labor Leader Says 'Big 3' Actually in Session At Undisclosed Location

By John A. Farris, Jr. LONDON, Feb. 6. (AP)—It was disclosed definitely today that the big three actually are in conference, and the expectation was expressed in informed quarters in London that President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin might already have tackled the thorny problem of halting future aggression.

Sir Walter Citrine, British trade union leader, explaining why Prime Minister Churchill was not present to address today's opening of the trades union congress, announced that the British, American and Russian leaders were meeting "at this very moment."

Citrine did not hint as to the location. The German radio said the meeting was being held either aboard a warship in the Black sea or at a Black sea port, while the French telegraph agency said it was being held at Sochi, on the Black sea's eastern shore at the foot of the Caucasus mountains.

With indications that the conference had been in progress for some days, it seemed that the more urgent problems of defeating Germany and controlling that nation might have been settled.

This would clear the ground for discussion of a future world organization and the unanswered question of Dumbarton Oaks, whether a majority or unanimity would be required to determine an aggressor.

Portland Has \$200,000 Fire

PORTLAND, Feb. 6. (AP)—Damage to a four-story mid-town business block was estimated at \$200,000 by firemen today after they battled flames for two hours in a three-alarm blaze.

One fireman was cut in the thigh while working in the basement of the Fred Meyer store, where flames seemed to have originated. The building was occupied by five retail shops. Mike Cohen, manager of a second-floor furniture store, said his stock inventory of \$20,000 was damaged by smoke which billowed from the structure.

Thousands of noon-hour spectators jammed the vicinity of Yamhill and SW 4th avenue.

Storm Warning Still Up Along Pacific Coast

SEATTLE, Feb. 6. (AP)—The weather bureau ordered storm warnings on the Washington coast from Tatoosh to the mouth of the Columbia river change to whole gale warnings at 9 p. m. Small craft warnings were ordered up for the inland waters of Washington.

Southeast storm warnings along the Oregon coast and the strait of Juan de Fuca were unchanged.

Germans Predict Big Blow

U. S. Attacks Last Enemy Positions West of Roer

By Austin Bealmer

PARIS, Wednesday, Feb. 7. (AP)—American troops fighting in or beyond the Siegfried line's main encampments along a broad front in western Germany extended their operations northward yesterday with a two-direction attack against the last enemy positions west of the Roer guarding the river's important dams.

German commentators predicted last night that an imminent allied offensive on the western front would come at a point not now active and termed the operations in the Roer sector diversionary. They did not, however, predict where the blow would fall.

The US Third army advanced up to a mile and one-half on an eight-mile front, while the American First army pushed within a half-mile of the Siegfried line's permanent fortifications.

On the Alsatian front French First army troops with American aid continued cleaning out the halved Colmar pocket of Germans while the Americans placed the fortress city of Neufbreisach under siege.

The British, Canadian and US Ninth and Seventh army fronts remained comparatively quiet.

At the extreme northern end of the active American front inside Germany, the First army's 78th division was squeezing the last Germans from the west bank of the Roer. This division advanced within 1500 yards of the town of Schmidt, north of the dam network that controls the Roer's headquarters.

Nearly 4000 Allied Planes Slug Germany LONDON, Feb. 6. (AP)—The Allies hurled nearly 4000 warplanes into the battle of Germany in clearing weather today, even as Berlin still shuddered from explosion of delayed action bombs dropped in last Saturday's raid.

More than 1300 American Flying Fortresses and Liberator bombers hammered the key communication centers of Magdeburg, Leipzig and Chemnitz southeast of Berlin, while fighterbombers, also concentrating chiefly on railroads, ranged over Germany to within 39 miles of Schweinfurt and 100 miles of Berlin.

The American heavy bombers split into three groups as they roared over Germany from Holland in an aerial procession 300 miles long.

Allies Open Big Push In Italy Says Berlin

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 6. (AP)—A Berlin military spokesman said today that the Allies, mainly the British, opened a major offensive in Italy on Monday from Bologna to Faenza, the Dagens Nyheter Berlin correspondent reported. According to his dispatch, the Germans suggested that Bologna was the Allies' immediate objective.

February Rainfall Far Above Normal A total of two and one-half inches of rainfall has been reported for Salem and vicinity during the first six days of February by the U. S. Weather bureau at McNary field.

C. R. Stearns, senior observer at the bureau, said that the normal amount for the same period in February was only 1.02 inches. 4.16 inches rainfall is the normal amount for the whole month.

Wallace Chances Brighten as House Group Okehs George Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. (AP)—Henry Wallace's prospect of becoming secretary of commerce was brightened today by the house banking committee's unanimous approval of the senate-passed George bill.

The measure, which divorces the reconstruction finance corporation and subsidiary lending agencies from the commerce department, received favorable action after democrats beat down a republican attempt to repeal part of the president's war powers.

The banking committee's action transferred to the house floor the battle on the republican proposal to fence in the former vice president further by repealing President Roosevelt's wartime authority to restructure federal agencies. This probably will begin next week.

Yankees Mopping Up City

3 U.S. Columns Busy Liquidating Desperate Enemy

By C. Yates McDaniel

MANILA, Wednesday, Feb. 7. (AP)—Liberated Manila's business district was ablaze Monday from Japanese torches, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today, but three American columns still were liquidating the desperate enemy in a tightening three-way trap.

(CBS radio correspondent William Dunn reported today the fires had been burning 36 hours.) (Arthur Feldman of the Blue network said earth-shaking explosions were followed by sheets of flame Monday at sundown, and the business area was soon a raging inferno.

(He quoted a disappointed American doughboy as saying, "Well, there goes our good time in Manila!") Many Die in Fire Feldman said the number of persons who died in the burning of Manila probably will never be known, but "undoubtedly many Filipinos were burned alive."

By yesterday morning the flames began to die down, but it still was impossible to assess the actual damage.

House to house fighting was in progress in some sectors as the Yanks of the first cavalry, 37th infantry and eleventh airborne divisions closed in for the final mop-up.

Wantonly Destroyed "The trapped and frustrated Japanese garrison has wantonly set fire to the downtown business district along the Escolta and is practicing general sabotage decided last night that has no relation to the military operations," MacArthur announced.

MacArthur told his men in a general order that "you have inflicted the greatest military defeat in its history on your enemy."

"You have redeemed a country's pledge to recapture its lost land," he said. "You are restoring to the east its destiny. You have fulfilled the sacred mission for our hallowed dead."

"For this we thank God." MacArthur requested that divine services be held throughout the sea, land and air command.

Hit-Run Victim Near Death, Driver Sought

Jennie Mitchell, 64, resident of 1915 South Cottage street, lies in critical condition at Salem Deaconess hospital this morning. And city police are seeking clues which may lead to the arrest of the driver of a dark sedan which struck Mrs. Mitchell, a pedestrian, to the paving at Cottage and Court streets at 7:05 p.m. Tuesday and then sped on into the rainy night.

Mrs. Mitchell, who is said to have come here from Hubbard after the death of her only son a few months ago, taking employment at the Deaconess. Cottage home to keep her mind off her grief, sustained severe bruises and abrasions and her left leg was broken.

One witness has given police their only description of the hit-run car.

Warren Won't Run in 1948

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. (AP)—No sooner had Governor Earl Warren of California declared today that he is not a presidential candidate than a supporter predicted his nomination in 1948.

Warren made his disavowal of presidential aspirations at a luncheon of the National Press club.

But Rep. Gearhart (R-Calif.), one of his listeners, told a reporter later at the capitol: "I don't think that is a matter for the governor to decide. The call for his nomination (on the republican ticket) will be so utterly irresistible when the time arrives that he will not be able to say no. California will offer him proudly."

Patrolman Blushes

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 6. (AP)—Special Patrolman W. C. Stewart blushed in police headquarters today when he told his story. He'd been strong-armed by a thug and robbed of his billfold and police commission.

Occasional Light Rain today with temperatures about the same in the mid-Willamette valley area, predicts U. S. Weather bureau, McNary field, Salem.

Weather table with columns for location, max, min, and rain. Locations include San Francisco, Eugene, Salem, Portland, Seattle, and Willamette river.