

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles Sprague

Official announcement that President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Marshal Stalin are meeting in Black sea area...

The disposition of Germany poses a most difficult problem; but there the only questions are how to harness Germany against future aggression...

Just now western correspondents are barred from Romania, Bulgaria, Yugo-Slavia and Poland...

Brooks Blames Military Heads For Shortages

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8. (AP)—Senator Brooks (R-Ill) declared today that the heads of the armed forces are partly responsible for the nation's manpower troubles.

Specifically naming general of the army George C. Marshall and admiral of the fleet Ernest J. King, he said they had failed to use men to best advantage...

Brooks addressed the senate while Senator Tydings (D-Md) was moving for congressional action against what he called selective service efforts to "brush aside" his former's deferment amendment to the draft law.

Meanwhile, 50 steps down the hall, high government officials were telling the senate military affairs committee that compulsory controls over civilian manpower are needed...

U.S. Friendlier Toward Italy

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8. (AP)—American support for a gradual change in Italy's status towards full admission into the United Nations was hinted today.

Acting Secretary of State Greg said that Italy's co-belligerency had made it unnecessary to apply fully the stringent armistice terms signed in 1943.

He added that "Italy's economy is being devoted to the prosecution of the war in the same sense as is that of the other countries fighting Germany."

Clearing Skies today, with slightly cooler temperatures in the mid-Willamette valley area, predicts U. S. Weather bureau, McNary field, Salem.

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Table with columns: Location, Max., Min., Rain. Includes San Francisco, Eugene, Salem, Portland, Seattle, Willamette river.

CANUCKS OPEN BIG DRIVE; BERLIN AFIRE--7 MILES OFF

New Push Opens On Stettin

Soviets Threaten To Trap Scores Of Nazi Troops

By W. W. Hatcher LONDON, Friday, Feb. 8. (AP)—The Red army, threatening to trap scores of thousands of enemy troops, yesterday drove a new spearhead within 30 miles of Berlin's Baltic port of Stettin...

The Germans reported that other Soviet shock units had expended six bridgeheads across the Oder river 30 to 43 miles from the imperiled reich capital.

Enemy broadcasts said Soviet armored columns striking through Pomerania northeast of Berlin were within 22 miles of Stettin, and reports reaching London said that Stettin and Berlin now have independent commands...

Nazis Shelled Hard The Russians were said to have ferried a large number of tanks and fresh troops across the Oder near the axis capital as Soviet artillerymen laid down a withering barrage on German lines.

In East Prussia the Russians captured the German stronghold of Kreuzburg, 13 miles south of encircled Koenigsberg, killing 4000 Germans, a supplemental Moscow communique reported.

The Soviet communique was silent on the great battle roaring at Berlin's outer gates, but the Moscow radio declared, "the Oder line has been pierced and Berlin in panic is witnessing the crumbling of the last obstacle in its foreground."

German Woes Told German broadcasts said the Oder stronghold of Kuestrin had been encircled temporarily, told of Red army crossings on both sides of Kuestrin, Frankfurt and Fuerstenberg on a 40-mile front, and said there was "house-to-house fighting" at Pyritz and Arnswalde, 22 and 8 miles southeast of Stettin at the mouth of the Oder.

One Finnish broadcast recorded by the BBC said, "Russian tanks have probed to the outskirts of Berlin," and a German-language broadcast from Moscow said Soviet units were "now only some dozen kilometers from burning Berlin according to front line reports." Twelve kilometers is seven and one-half miles.

Mexican Workers Approved For U. S.

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 8. (AP)—Mexico has agreed to send 50,000 more workers to the United States under a continuing agreement to furnish manpower during wartime. The present limit of Mexican workers in the United States at one time is 125,000, but because of expiration of contracts and constant shifts this figure never has been reached.

Santiam at Flood Stage of 13 Feet, Expected to Rise 5 More in Next 12 Hours

JEFFERSON, Feb. 8.—The Santiam river is at flood stage, 13 feet, and expected to rise 5 feet in the next 12 hours. Many residents have moved their stock off the low lands and a few families have left their homes in the flats. At 9 p. m. Thursday the river was at a standstill but was expected to resume the steady rise.

Farms affected are below the Talbot community and much stock has been moved to higher ground. Mrs. J. McGill of the Talbot district came to Jefferson Thursday night but other members of the family remained at the place. A few others, similarly situated on especially low ground are known to have left to stay with friends.

The Marion county Red Cross early Thursday afternoon notified the Jefferson unit to warn residents to seek higher levels for livestock and members of families in the path of the rising Santiam. (Additional flood news on page 2).

The Willamette river had reached a height of 13 feet here late Thursday night and a crest of 16 feet is expected by late this afternoon, when the middle portion (near Salem) is predicted to fall slowly. Flood stage on the Willamette here is 20 feet.

The Yamhill and the McKenzie rivers had reached flood stage at various points but no critical damage was expected anywhere.

Admiral Hart Named Solon

HARTFORD, Conn., Feb. 8. (AP) Gov. Raymond E. Baldwin (r) today named Admiral Thomas C. Hart, 67, member of the navy's general board and commander-in-chief of the United States Asiatic fleet at the time of Pearl Harbor, to succeed the late U. S. Senator Francis T. Maloney (d).

The governor's action, forecast in an address to the electorate last Monday, came swiftly after he had signed a bill empowering him to fill the vacancy by appointment.

Hart, whose politics are undetermined and who has steadfastly declined to comment in advance of legislative action, is a resident of Sharon, Conn.

Jerries Routed With Inner Tube Slingshot

WITH THE 29th DIVISION IN GERMANY, Feb. 8. (AP)—Ordered to take a Jerry position when they were so close to the German lines that shooting would have brought them under fire, members of company A, 175th infantry, stretched an old inner tube between two trees and hurled grenades slingshot fashion. It worked.

Quisling Police Chief For Norway Ambushed

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 8. (AP)—Karl Marthinsen, Norway's state security police chief appointed by Premier Vikundquising, was slain from ambush as he drove to his office this morning, it was announced officially in Oslo tonight.

Washington 38,887 Barrels for \$4,260,000

The price, he said, was 54 cents a case over OPA prices but the deal was approved by the OPA— which previously pared \$1,100,000 from the purchase price—before it was consummated.

Conway told the committee it would not have been possible to acquire the whisky without meeting Collin's terms to let him have 10,000 barrels at boot prices (from 42 to 55 cents a gallon) and contract with him to do the bottling at \$1.75 a case. Collin kept the physical assets.

Later, Conway said, after Collin and the Washington liquor commission had been dealing separately, a contract was drawn up under which Oregon was offered a chance to share. As a consequence, he said, Oregon bought 29,378 barrels for \$3,225,000 and

Election Scheduled For Today

Park Purchase, Power Franchise Up for Decision

Salem voters—not just taxpayers, but all registered voters are eligible to cast ballots—go to the polls in the city's seven wards today to vote on the purchase of a park site and the granting of a franchise to an electric cooperative.

The park measure involves the issuing of \$175,000 worth of municipal bonds for the purchase of 47 acres in Bush pasture for public park and playground uses. The city now owns 53 acres of the eastern level portion of the pasture, deemed to it by the Bush family a number of years ago. The portion now under consideration is the upland western end of the estate.

To grant or not to grant a franchise to Salem Electric cooperative is the second question under consideration. The cooperative now has 20 poles in Salem, but to expand its lines here would have to hold a franchise.

Polis open at 8 a. m. and close at 8 p. m. (See map on page 2 showing ward boundaries and listing polling places.)

German Grain Stocks Seized By Government

LONDON, Feb. 8. (AP)—The Nazi government commandeered all German grain stocks for bread today as the food crisis increased within the reich and Heinrich Himmler was reported to have taken over the death-stand defense of Berlin.

A drastic decree broadcast by the German ministry of agriculture ordered peasants to surrender immediately all wheat, barley and rye for bread production, even if their livestock should starve as a result.

"A grave food and transportation situation has forced the minister of food and agriculture to issue this decree," said the special announcement on the German radio.

Japs Shiver and Goldfish Freeze From Cold Wave

The Yanks are making it hot for the Japanese in the Philippines but — B-r-r-r-r — it's mighty cold in Japan.

Domei news agency said last night in a broadcast recorded by the federal communications commission that Japan is experiencing its coldest winter in 25 years.

The dispatch said it was so cold that gold fish "froze in a solid block of ice and died."

On Move



Field Marshal Montgomery

Churchill Turns Down Anti-Red Combine Idea

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8. (AP)—Flat rejection by Prime Minister Churchill of any idea of a combine against Russia helped clear the air for the current big three meeting.

The point came up specifically in a proposal from the Spanish dictator, Francisco Franco, for a western European alliance against the soviet union.

Churchill turned him down bluntly, it was learned here, and went far beyond the immediate issue by making it entirely clear, in the view of authorities here, that British policy calls for cooperation with Russia and the United States toward a future peace.

The prime minister nailed the point down by sending copies of the correspondence to President Roosevelt and Marshal Stalin.

The gesture of Franco, one-time friend and virtual ally of Hitler, included an offer of his services as mediator between the allies and their enemies — in a word, Franco was willing to help negotiate a peace if Churchill was interested. Churchill turned that proposal down just as bluntly.

Allied Planes Keep Blasting At Nazi Lines

LONDON, Feb. 8. (AP)—Allied warplanes kept up their widespread attacks on the enemy today and tonight with a series of strikes into Denmark, Holland, Austria and Germany itself.

An Associated Press dispatch from Stockholm said allied bombers pounded the harbor at Copenhagen, Denmark, shortly after 10 o'clock tonight in a blow presumably directed at light units of the German Baltic fleet which have been reported there.

The German radio said other allied bombers were over Pomerania tonight in small formations, probably indicating an RAF attack on German targets lying in front of Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's first white Russian army.

Assault in North Hits Behind Huge 11-Hour Barrage

Initial Advance of Two Miles Punched Out; Final Battle for Germany May Now Be at Hand

By AUSTIN BEALMEAR PARIS, Feb. 8.—(AP)—The Canadian First army, striking behind a thunderous 11-hour barrage with flame-throwers and tanks, launched a grand-scale offensive yesterday morning apparently designed to turn the westwall's north flank and break into the Ruhr and Rhineland.

In the first hours the assault along the long-dormant northern end of the western front southeast of Nijmegen, Holland, gained two miles and Canadian and British troops battled inside the westwall's fortifications.

With two US armies already battering three breaches in the westwall on a 70-mile front inside Germany, and two others poised to strike along the Roer before Germany, the final battle for Germany may be at hand.

Sorely pressed at the approaches to Berlin by the Russians on the east, the German armies in the west were desperately forced to try to hold back a tide threatening to spill out onto the Rhineland plain and engulf their great industrial cities.

A front dispatch said that Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery sent his British and Canadian divisions of the Canadian First army—veterans of Holland's battles of rivers and dikes—into action on a five-mile front southeast of Nijmegen.

Stunned by the furious cannonading and battered by the bombs of more than 1500 warplanes blasting out a path, the Germans offered feeble resistance at first and gains up to two miles were recorded by the attackers at the outset.

The exact location of the assault was not announced, but the fact that the British and Dominion troops had fought into Germany's reich forests indicated that Montgomery was aiming at the tip of the westwall, which terminates at Kieve east of the forest.

Would By-Pass Defense The Rhine, which crosses into Holland four miles north of Kieve, winds southward past such Ruhr and Rhine industrial cities as Emmerich, Wesel, Dusseldorf and Cologne, and a drive along its west bank would by-pass powerful enemy defenses along the Roer.

The US First army assault more than 85 miles to the southeast likewise was threatening to detour around the Roer line—which has held up the allies since November—and break out into the industrial heart of Germany.

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U.S. Casualties In All Theatres Total 764,584

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8. (AP)—American casualties in all theatres now total enough to make more than 50 divisions.

Secretary of War Stimson said today army casualties — killed, wounded, missing and prisoners — totalled 676,796 on the basis of individual names compiled in Washington through January 24.

The navy's 87,788 casualties puts the combined list at 764,584. However, about 200,000 of the wounded have returned to duty.

Stimson also reported that 865,000 German prisoners were taken on the western front since D-day.

Simultaneously, the war department reported that 359,248 prisoners of war are now held at camps in this country. Included are 305,867 Germans, 50,510 Italians and 2,280 Japanese.

Overflow Navy Men Headed for Farragut

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8. (AP)—Navy approval of a plan to use Camp Farragut, Idaho, for overflow personnel from the west coast was announced today by Senator Thomas (R-Idaho).

Thomas quoted a letter from Rear Admiral Randall Jacobs, navy personnel chief saying three of the eight Farragut camps will be used by the western sea frontier command for overflow personnel and eventually for demobilization.

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CONWAY SAYS LIQUOR PURCHASE FACTS WILL PLEASE STATE

By Wendell Webb Managing editor, The Statesman Oregon won't know for 30 days or more exactly how it fared in regard to the 1943 purchase of Kentucky liquor, but when all figures are in the liquor commission believes the state "will want to buy another set of distilleries."

That testimony came Thursday from T. Ray Conway, administrator for the Oregon liquor control commission, at the first formal session of the legislative investigating committee named to study the deal.

Conway was drawn through exhaustive questioning by Sen. Paul Patterson, the committee's chairman, regarding the background for the purchase by Oregon and Washington of 78,265 barrels of whisky — the total liquid stocks of the Waterfill and Frazier and Shawhan distilleries.

He told the committee that the corporation formed by Sam Farber, Waterfill and Frazier employes, Tom Jordan of the Washington liquor control commission, and himself would be dissolved as soon as an acceptance was received in regard to an audit by the bureau of internal revenue, expected within 30 days. The corporation was formed for the purchase "because it was the corporate stock, not just the liquor, which was for sale."

Shortage Cited Conway said the purchase grew out of a shortage of whisky in 1943 when the month of June showed but a week's supply on hand.

He pointed to the state law which said the liquor commission "shall keep on hand . . . such quantity and kinds as may be required," said a black market was obtaining "exorbitant prices," and

told the committee the liquor commission "would have gone any price we could have legally" in any effort to acquire stocks to meet the demand.

The committee also was told that when the state liquor commission first was in contact with Harry E. Collin, a Toledo, O., securities dealer, who held options on the two distilleries, the matter bogged down after the Oregon state treasurer was informed by his attorney that he would be held personally responsible for any state warrants or checks issued in such a deal.

Contract Drawn Later, Conway said, after Collin and the Washington liquor commission had been dealing separately, a contract was drawn up under which Oregon was offered a chance to share. As a consequence, he said, Oregon bought 29,378 barrels for \$3,225,000 and

Washington 38,887 barrels for \$4,260,000. The price, he said, was 54 cents a case over OPA prices but the deal was approved by the OPA— which previously pared \$1,100,000 from the purchase price—before it was consummated.

Conway told the committee it would not have been possible to acquire the whisky without meeting Collin's terms to let him have 10,000 barrels at boot prices (from 42 to 55 cents a gallon) and contract with him to do the bottling at \$1.75 a case. Collin kept the physical assets.

Huge Profit Found A great deal of the controversy which led to the investigation resulted from audits indicating that Collin netted between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000 from the joint purchase.

Conway said a supplementary letter-contract with Collin provided that if Collin could not deliver 25,000 cases of bottled whisky a month, Oregon could obtain up to that amount in bulk by paying Collin \$5 a barrel. Asked why Collin didn't turn over such whisky free of extra charge if he couldn't bottle it, Conway said "I think he should have."

Bulk whisky obtained later in the deal, Conway said, was exchanged with other companies for bottled goods. He said both the Waterfill and Frazier and the Shawhan were bottled under the former's label, and commented that it was "good domestic whisky" and sold "as cheaply as we can."

being held pending a study as to who should pay certain small amounts.

His testimony also placed in the record an estimate that 45 to 55 per cent of the retail purchase price of whisky went into the single federal tax of \$9 a gallon for 100 proof. He testified, too, that the commission had insured the bulk product for its retail sales price.

The distribution of the whisky to the two states, he testified, was under the jurisdiction of the auditing firm of Arthur Anderson company, and a final audit was made last June by Ray H. Leshor of Portland.

Many Meetings Held Regarding the 1943 contract with Collin, Conway said it provided that if approval of the Oregon board of control wasn't forthcoming within 21 days the entire purchase was to be made by Washington.

Conway said the liquor commission had held many meetings to determine its obligations under the law to keep the state supplied with whisky. He testified that in 1940 and 1941 all but 10 per cent of the alcoholic beverages sold in the state was whisky, and said the commission had managed to buy cane spirits and rum during the months of serious shortage but "wasn't proud of the quality . . . it continued to search and grope for whiskies."

Black Market Cited The steps leading to the purchase, Conway said, were designed to partially satisfy the domestic demand, lessen the black market, and result in financial profit to the state.

Several questions put to Conway were withdrawn for later witnesses, and it was indicated the next one would be George

Prescott Lilley of Baker, who was chairman of the state liquor commission when the purchase was made. Other members of the commission are Hugh R. Kirkpatrick of Lebanon, present chairman, and Paul Crooks of Portland.

Conway told the committee "the liquor commission and employees were anxious to cooperate in the investigation and offered all facilities."

Auditors At Hearing The hearing Thursday was confined to committee members, the press, the witness, secretaries, and Burton Smith and Delbert Kimberling, Portland auditors procured for the investigation.

The committee members are Senator Patterson, Sen. Angus Gibson, and Reps. Henry Semon, Ralph Moore and Harvey Wells.

No specific date was set but it was expected another hearing would be held early next week. Legislative news page 9.