

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles Sprague

Nearly 100 years ago, Sept. 13, 1847 to be exact, the American army under Gen. Winfield Scott (Old Fuss and Feathers) stormed the heights of Chapultepec on the approach to the capital of old Mexico. For the past ten days or so the old castle which still stands on the eminence has served as meeting place for representatives of 20 American nations who are attempting in a spirit of mutuality to solve problems for the good of all America. Quite a contrast, indeed, between the two scenes. Old Chapultepec was heavily fortified to stand as a bastion guarding the City of Mexico. The eminence was 150 ft. high; and the walls of the castle, 100 ft. high, were of heavy stone masonry. The crest was protected by a double wall. The place was quite heavily fortified and some of the gunners were Frenchmen experienced in handling artillery. General Scott opened his attack on September 12 with his artillery, seeking to breach the walls. The next day his troops stormed the castle, using scaling ladders to get over the walls. The engagement was fierce while it lasted, but the Mexican defenders were driven out and the way was then open to the gates of the city. For Mexicans there has always been deep sentiment about Chapultepec. The country's military academy was there, whose cadets fought (Continued on Editorial Page)

Marines Reach Cliffs on North Side of Iwo

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Friday, Mar. 8.—(AP)—Front line dispatches disclosed today that the Third Marine division has reached the cliff top overlooking the northeast beaches of Iwo and the Fifth Marine division has shot an enveloping arm 1000 yards up the northwest shore. The disclosures followed a navy communique announcing only small gains Thursday on the third day of an all-out push so bitterly contested that the marines had to call on tanks to operate in unfavorable terrain as support. The front line dispatches amplified these gains, placing Maj. Gen. Graves B. Erskine's Third division at the edge of cliffs only 300 yards from the beach. The cliffs are honeycombed with dugouts in which machineguns and possibly heavier weapons bar the precipitous path down to the surf.

Church Heads To Map Plans For Census

Five hundred church workers from 27 Salem churches and representing an estimated 90 per cent of the church membership of Salem, will meet tonight at 7:30 at the First Presbyterian church to make plans for taking the church census of Salem. The project is financed by the Locknear Foundation of southern California and directed by Dr. Charles Durden, pastor of Calvary Baptist church. Members of the directing committee of which he is chairman are the Rev. T. J. Bernard, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic church; the Rev. Willard B. Hall, pastor of Knight Memorial Congregational church; Rev. Weaver Hess, pastor of the church of the Nazarenes; and C. A. Kells, general secretary of the Salem YMCA, where the census work will be maintained.

272 Liberated Yanks Reach San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, March 8.—(AP)—For an hour or more today, eyes of 272 American enlisted men and officers released after nearly three years as Japanese prisoners of war, were alight with excitement and pleasure at the welcome given them by the people of San Francisco in behalf of their folks and their country. But soon the brilliant gleams were eclipsed by the tiredness, the emotional strain and the memories of their years in hell.

Final Blow on Japan Will Be One of Overwhelming Might

WASHINGTON, March 8.—(AP)—Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, forecasting the final assault on Japan as one of overwhelming might, said today "It may well be" that some of the now-secret take off spots will be in China. The US commander of the Pacific ocean areas popped up in Washington at a time when other important figures of the war against Japan were circulating in the capital. But at a news conference he

Weather

	Max.	Min.	Rain
San Francisco	60	39	.00
Eugene	56	34	.00
Salem	55	40	.03
Portland	56	40	.03
Seattle	53	40	.03
Willamette river 3 ft.			

U.S. CRACKS RHINE BARRIER

Russian Troops 25 Miles From Berlin

Reds Roll Close to Danzig

Soviets Outflank Oder Fortresses Germans Report

By Romney Wheeler

LONDON, Friday, March 8.—(AP)—The Germans said last night that Russian tanks had plunged within 25 miles of greater Berlin on the second day of an all-out frontal assault, while Moscow announced that other soviet forces invading Danzig territory for the first time had rolled within 12 miles of the former free city of Danzig.

German Surrender Procession



German civilians, hands upraised, march through the street to surrender to troops of the U. S. Third Army after their capture of Trier in Germany. This photo was taken by Byron H. Rollins, AP photographer with the wartime still picture pool. (AP wirephoto)

Senate Sends Remodeled Manpower Bill to House; Employer Penalties Back

WASHINGTON, March 8.—(AP)—The senate sent a completely remodeled manpower control bill back to the house today, with all direct penalties aimed at balking employers rather than employees. Jammed in the senate two full weeks, the substitute bill drawn by the senate military committee was blasted loose late today by a 63 to 16 roll call vote. Thirty-nine democrats, 23 republicans and a progressive voted for the measure, seven democrats and nine republicans against.

Fewer Than 100 Nisei Are Back in State

PORTLAND, March 8.—(AP)—Fewer than 100 Japanese-Americans of the original 4,200 evacuated by the war relocation authority have returned to Oregon, a WRA official said today. Most of the Nisei are going to "central and eastern states," Clyde W. Linville, senior WRA officer, reported.

Canol Project To Be Halted

WASHINGTON, March 8.—(AP)—Operation of most of the controversial multi-million dollar canol oil project in northwestern Canada will be halted June 30, the war department announced tonight. The move was attributed to an expected improvement in the tanker situation as well as the more favorable military position in the Alaskan area. The \$134,000,000 project was launched in April, 1942, a few months after Pearl Harbor, when Alaska was threatened by the Japanese and the sea route from the United States to Alaska was endangered.

House Bids for Share In Writing of Peace

WASHINGTON, March 8.—(AP)—The house opened a serious bid for a share in the writing of peace terms today, ignoring a senate committee's determination to balk the plan for the war's duration. The rules committee ordered two days of general debate on a constitutional amendment which would erase the senate's traditional two-thirds vote control over treaties and make future peace pacts subject to ratification of a majority vote of both houses of congress.

Weather Thickens At Capitol

Vet, School and Liquor Bills Get O. K. in Speedup

By Wendell Webb

Managing editor, The Statesman

The 43rd legislature was in its heaviest weather of the session today and its progress on the Friday calendar could "make or break" in so far as avowed intentions of adjourning early next week are concerned. Both the senate and house completed their calendars Thursday, the house after its longest meeting-day of the session, with these major results:

School Bill Passed

The house reconsidered and passed HB 80 to create rural school districts; passed HB 212 to permit counties to have the manager form of government; passed SB 144 and 145 increasing fees, restrictions and penalties under the Oregon liquor law; defeated SB 272 permitting firms to carry on optometry business with registered optometrists.

On the house calendar today are such measures as the cigarette tax (HB 417); school support fund (HB 416); tax levy for state building fund (HB 415); confiscation under liquor laws (SB 117); barber bill (SB 185); asking stabilization of gold (SB 199); and permitting Chinese to own real estate in Oregon (SB 14).

On the senate calendar are bills to put all fortified wines in liquor stores (SB 276); establishing a public health department (SB 89); lifting the limit on old-age assistance (HB 52); and setting up a scrip system (SB 112), for the sale of drinks in clubs (the latter proposal will be a special order of business in the senate at 2:30 p. m.)

Each house has 18 measures up for final action today—the 61st of the session and the 11th without remuneration. Most appropriation bills, including those for public welfare, were understood to be nearly set for final action. (Legislative news pages 7, 8 and 10).

Anti-Measles Serum Ready

WASHINGTON, March 8.—(AP)—The American Red Cross announced today that immune serum globulin for the prevention and modification of measles is being distributed by it for civilian use. By-product of human blood processed for the armed forces, the immune serum globulin, Basil O'Connor, Red Cross chairman, said, "is of great value in controlling outbreaks and in preventing the dangerous complications of the disease."

Posthumous Award Of Silver Star Given Salem Man

WASHINGTON, March 8.—(AP)—Posthumous award of the army Silver Star to 2nd Lt. Gerald H. Swatberg, Salem, Ore., was announced today by the war department. Swatberg was cited for heroism in Sicily in August, 1943, while leading his rifle platoon in an attack against an enemy position. The Salem officer ordered his men to take cover when enemy mortar shells and machine gun fire pinned them down in advance positions. Injured himself, he realized several of the men hadn't heard the order because of the noise. Although mortally wounded, he was concerned only with the safety of his men, the citation said, and crawled among his riflemen ordering them to cover while refusing help for himself. His widow, Mrs. Bertha Swatberg, resides at 1415 South Liberty st., Salem.

Loyal Warner New President Of Salem United War Chest

Loyal Warner, president of Salem chamber of commerce, shouldered a new responsibility Thursday when he was elected president of the Salem United War Chest to succeed Lowell Kern. Warner, a former chest campaign manager and former president of the Salem Retail Trade bureau, is manager of the J. C. Penney company store in Salem. Fred S. Anunson, pre-campaign chairman for last fall's chest drive, was elected first vice president and E. Burr Miller, who was chairman of the drive, was named second vice president. Dorthea Steustloff, chairman of the women's division of the campaign for the past several years, was elected secretary. Leo G. Page of the U. S. National bank, who succeeded Lynn C. Smith on the board,

Tokyo Says Yanks Preparing to Land On Mindanao Isle

By the Associated Press

Tokyo radio said today that warships have been bombarding Zamboanga, on the southwest tip of Mindanao island in the southern Philippines since early Thursday morning and the bombardment "is believed to be a prelude to a landing attempt." The report was without any allied confirmation. Mindanao is second only to American-invaded Luzon island in size in the Philippines.

British, Indian Troops Enter Into Mandalay

LONDON, Friday, March 8.—(AP)—An All-India radio report heard in London early today said that Indian troops of the British forces in Burma had captured the main railway station in Mandalay.

By Frank L. Martin

CALCUTTA, March 8.—(AP)—British and Indian troops hammered into the northern suburbs of Mandalay today after a 14-mile night advance through disintegrating Japanese resistance and the fall of Burma's second city was believed here to be imminent. Many Japanese were bypassed in the spectacular night thrust and were left behind to be mopped up at leisure. Capture of Mandalay, a city of 135,000 population, is expected to seal off additional thousands of enemy troops.

The Burma picture was the brightest for the allies since the Japanese invaded the country in the spring of 1942. Unless the enemy is reinforced strongly and quickly the weight of odds against him makes it certain he will be driven from Burma in the not distant future.

U.S. General Wounded But Will Recover

MANILA, Friday, March 9.—(AP)—Maj. Gen. Verne D. Mudge, commander of the hard-hitting First cavalry division, was wounded severely February 23 by a Japanese grenade, but the medical staff reported today his recovery was certain. General Mudge's home is Fellsme, Fla., his wife lives in San Diego.

Americas Delegates Sign Blueprint for New Era

MEXICO CITY, March 8.—(AP)—Delegates to the inter-American conference signed a blueprint for a new era in this hemisphere tonight. Then they started home, preparing to extend their system for peace and prosperity to the rest of the world at San Francisco. The general was wounded on the battle line northeast of Manila while looking for a dugout which the army engineers had blasted. A Japanese, who had been left for dead, tossed a grenade. Shrapnel wounded Mudge in the abdomen.

First Army Drives Eastward Toward Germany's Heart

Sensational Crossing May Have Been Made on Remagen Bridge; Heralds Speedier End of War

By Austin Bealmear

PARIS, March 8.—(AP)—Thousands of U. S. first army troops, surging across the Rhine south of Cologne, drove east toward Germany's heart tonight against surprisingly light resistance after cracking the historic western barrier in a brilliant coup heralding a speedier end to the war.

The swift, sensational crossing was the biggest military triumph since the Normandy landings, and was a battle feat without parallel since Napoleon's conquering legions crossed the Rhine early in the last century.

It caught the Germans so disorganized that they met the assault waves with only scattered artillery and mortar fire, and they were quickly driven from strategic positions. The allied high command kept them confused by withholding the momentous news for 24 hours.

The Luxembourg radio broadcast without official confirmation that the Americans crossed at Remagen, site of the great Ludendorff double-track railway bridge, 28 miles southeast of Cologne and 12 miles southeast of Bonn.

(Brussels radio carried the same report, prompting speculation in London that the Americans may have seized the bridge intact, putting them in position to hurry tanks across and exploit the surprise blow to the full. The German communique said this morning that the Americans had reached Remagen.)

The crossing, fated to end the war months sooner than calculated, if it can be exploited, came as four allied armies closed up to the Rhine nearly everywhere on a 150-mile front and the Third army on the south end began blasting with artillery at Coblenz, most important river crossing left to the enemy. Nazis Counterattack 3 Times

The Germans rallied for three counterattacks after the first American infantrymen hurdled the river at 3:50 p.m. yesterday, but these were hurled back. The enemy was caught without prepared positions, and he was forced tonight to blaze away with artillery at the deep and firm bridgehead, trying to stem the allied tide of men and materials rushing across the river.

Fighter bomber squadrons snarled through the murky sky, attacking a half dozen communications centers surrounding the bridgehead in an attempt to seal off reinforcements. Tight censorship prevented pin-pointing the location of the crossing and supreme headquarters late tonight still permitted only the barest details to be disclosed in the hope of throwing the Germans off the scent except those immediately brought to battle. (Supreme headquarters imposed its blackout on the First army's southern wing yesterday after permitting disclosure that armored units were 10 miles south of Bonn, which would place them in the area of Remagen.)

News Deights Eisenhower

The crossing which brought the First army a message of "delighted" congratulations from General Eisenhower, was made just an hour and 15 minutes before tanks of the Third army reached the Rhine farther south toward Coblenz. Both armies, still operating under partial blackouts, were rapidly overrunning the last enemy-held sector west of the Rhine and north of the Moselle.

Across the Rhine, American infantrymen pushed on, leaving the bridgehead well behind and out of range of small arms fire. Associated Press Correspondent Hay Boyle said the men who made the first crossing were still in the vanguard of the drive beyond the river. The crossing was made at one of the most picturesque parts of the beautiful, storied Rhine, winding as Boyle described it "like a lazy, silver snake" between sheer bluffs and green hills. As soon as the original company had crossed it began ascending a sheer 300-foot crag. Resistance was not organized because the Germans were completely caught off guard, but some nazis were able to turn an anti-aircraft gun against the attackers for a time. Men, Weapons Four Across

Artillery and mortars fired sporadically and the Germans "zeroed" the crossing point with long range shells. However, American reinforcements and equipment kept feeding across to the east bank and every road leading to the bridgehead brought more men and weapons. The veteran First division cleared at least half of Bonn, a city of 101,000, during the day in fighting which Associated Press Correspondent Don Whitehead said was much more bitter than the battle for Cologne. Despite the presence of thousands of civilians in the city, the Germans were pouring rockets and artillery into it, killing many of their own people. At last reports the iron bridge carrying the highway and tramway across the Rhine at Bonn was still passable. Three miles south of Bonn the Ninth division of the First army cleared three-fourths of the resort town of Bad Godesberg and severed the river bank road running between Bonn and Coblenz.

Portland Vice Racket Draws Citizens' Ire

PORTLAND, Ore., March 8.—(AP)—A grim-faced citizens' committee, 100 strong, declared war on Portland's vice conditions today and demanded that city officials clamp down on prostitution. The group, representing civic leaders, heard a federal security agency official threaten federal intervention unless organized prostitution is suppressed. Field Representative John W. Sears said the government's efforts to clean out vice had received weak help locally. "Each flurry of enforcement you have had represents the results of pressure from the army, navy or federal security agency," he said.

PFC Edward Masonic Missing in Action

PFC Edward Masonic, former Salem resident who trained at Camp Adair with the 70th division and whose wife, Harriette Masonic, is a teacher at Englewood school, has been reported missing in action somewhere in France since January 8. Masonic was with the Trailblazer division on the western front.

British Admiral Dies

EXETER, England, Mar. 8.—(AP)—Rear Adm. Montagu W. W. F. Consett, British naval representative on the inter-allied committee of Versailles in 1920, died at his home here yesterday. He was 74.