

YANKS SEVER SUPER-HIGHWAY

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sorenson

Newspapers have been under fire from the present administration, notably from President Roosevelt and Secretary Ickes. The latter, regularly after a Roosevelt reelection taunts the papers with lack of influence since the majority of papers have regularly opposed Mr. Roosevelt. Now the Saturday Review of Literature has prodded Virginia Dabney, editor of the Richmond, Va. Times-Dispatch, in contributing an article on "What's Wrong with Newspaper Editorials?" Dabney, who is one of the better men in the craft, complied with reluctance, and he certainly doesn't spare the rod when he attempts to answer the question.

Conceding as "good points" of American newspapers the fact that they are "the most informative and the freest papers in the world," Dabney admits they have their shortcomings, one of which is their editorials which "are not the force in American life they ought to be, or that they were a generation or two ago." He puts the blame on publishers who run their papers as big business, look on them as properties rather than as instruments for public service. He writes:

"The fact that the average American publisher is not only conservative, but frequently reactionary, and the further fact that he often imposes his views upon his editor, is the greatest single reason why the American editorial page has declined so sharply in influence. Instead of letting trained newspaper men conduct the paper, an art and mystery about which

(Continued on Editorial Page)

Electric Mines Slow 41st Push On Mindanao

MANILA, Friday, March 16.—(AP)—Extensive enemy use of electrically-controlled land mines and increased artillery and automatic weapon fire slowed the 41st division doughboys driving northward from captured Zamboanga Wednesday but they widened their Mindanao island beachhead to 28 miles, headquarters said today.

The Japanese resorted to electric mines for the first time in the southwest Pacific. A headquarters spokesman reported the Yank advance was definitely impeded.

Bombs Hit Mindanao

Along the coast, however, Maj Gen. Jens A. Doe's infantrymen captured Manicahan on the east flank and San Ramon on the west to take in 28 miles of coastline. Heavy bombers hit eastern Mindanao, meanwhile, with 200 tons of bombs.

A Japanese destroyer and five other ships were sunk in the China sea by four Mitchell medium bombers.

American rail and ship transportation was operating in Manila again.

Japs Attempt Landing

On Luzon the 158th regimental combat team destroyed a concentration of enemy barges and dispersed a Japanese landing attempt at Bolo, on the south coast.

Formosa was hit with 174 tons concentrated in a hydroelectric plant.

Brewery Founder Dies in Vancouver

VANCOUVER, BC.—(CP)—Fritz Sick, 85, founder of the Sick Brewery interests, died in a hospital here today. He had been ill for some time.

Sick was honorary chairman of Sick's Breweries, Ltd., and his family operated breweries in Vancouver, Great Falls, Spokane, Salem and Seattle. He had ceased active management of the business, one of the largest of its kind in North America, several years ago.

Nazi Peace Feeler Conveyed To British Legation, Rejected

STOCKHOLM, March 15.—(AP)—A German peace feeler recently was conveyed to the British legation here through a third party and was rejected, an unofficial British statement said today, and the Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet asserted tonight there were rumors that similar German proposals had been made to Russia.

Aftonbladet said that in "certain Stockholm quarters" there were peace rumors "in connection with Russian Ambassador Madame (Alexandra) Kollontay's projected trip to Moscow." "She is supposed to deliver German proposals to Premier Stalin," Aftonbladet said.

The Oregon Statesman

NINETY-FOURTH YEAR

Salem, Oregon, Friday Morning, March 16, 1945

Price 5c.

No. 309

Record Crowds Throng Hoop Tournney

Prussian Pocket Is Sliced

Trapped German Force Severed By Breakthrough

By Romney Wheeler

LONDON, Friday, March 16.—(AP)—Russian shock troops, in a seven-mile breakthrough to the coast of Frisches Haff (lagoon) southwest of Koenigsberg, sliced the German East Prussian pocket into two vulnerable segments yesterday in a bitter mop-up prelude to the central offensive toward Berlin.

Isolating the besieged and shell-torn provincial capital of Koenigsberg from the main force of trapped enemy troops, the Third White Russian army reached the coast on a four-mile front and were hurling the battered remnants of 200,000 Nazi troops back to the sea along a blazing 39-mile line, Moscow's communique disclosed.

Simultaneously, Berlin said that Soviet forces had fought into the outskirts of Gdynia on the Baltic coast and were battling across the canal-webbed Vistula delta south of Danzig.

The enemy said violent Russian blows against the suburbs of Stettin had been thrown back while Russian heavy guns raked the island of Wolin at the northeastern extremity of the Stettiner Haff.

The Third White Russian army reached the coast of the Frisches Haff, Moscow said, after a seven-mile sweep across the coastal railroad and highway linking Koenigsberg with the East Prussian fortresses of Heiligenbeil and Braunsberg.

Elements of what Berlin said were seven Russian armies captured the coastal village of Heideburg, five miles southwest of Koenigsberg, after it had changed hands repeatedly in the bitter, prolonged fighting since late January, when the Soviets first took it.

Power of New 11-Ton Bomb Said Awesome

LONDON, March 15.—(AP)—The awesome power of the new 11-ton British superbomb, which tosses 10-ton clods of earth about like pebbles, was told today by an eyewitness.

The witness, said the air ministry, was a bomber command staff officer who stood off 2500 yards and watched what happened when the enormous, delayed-fuse missile exploded in a test.

"Huge clods of soil, weighing five to 10 tons each, sailed hundreds of feet into the air," the officer said. "There followed a large cloud of dense black smoke. The explosion was a vast boom and I felt the quaking of the earth shock."

The officer reported the explosion formed an "enormous crater" after the bomb penetrated to a great depth.

Nazi Phone Lines To Stockholm Cut

STOCKHOLM, Friday, March 16.—(AP)—Telephone communications between Berlin and Stockholm have been severed since 2 p.m. Thursday, the Stockholm press reported today.

Nazi Peace Feeler Conveyed To British Legation, Rejected

Best Stockholm informants said that as far as they knew there was no basis for this report beyond the fact that Madame Kollontay probably was going to Moscow soon.

Meanwhile the unofficial British statement said that "An approach was attempted a few days ago through a third party to a junior member of the legation staff and the third party was told at once that the British legation was not in the least interested in any such approach."

(Official British quarters in London said they knew nothing of the reported incident.)

Resigns



Duke of Windsor

Duke Resigns As Governor Of Bahamas

NASSAU, Bahamas, March 15.—(AP)—The Duke of Windsor, announced today that he has resigned after serving for longer than 4 1/2 years as governor of the Bahamas Islands, a tiny colonial outpost of the mighty empire of which he once was king.

He said he had made no immediate plans for the future after he relinquishes his post in April.

He added that he and his American-born duchess, for whose love he relinquished the crown, will remain at Nassau for at least another month.

W. L. Murphy, 58-year-old colonial secretary to Bermuda, will succeed the duke.

The news of the duke's resignation caught Nassau by complete surprise.

Stayton Pastor Is Transferred

STAYTON, Mar. 15.—The transfer of the pastor of St. Mary's parish, Rev. George Sniderhon, to St. Cecilia parish at Seaverton has been announced, effective as of March 15. Coming to St. Mary's will be Rev. Mathew Jonas, who leaves the parish at Verbort after having served there for 10 or 12 years.

Rev. Sniderhon came to Stayton from St. Peter's church in Portland in February, 1936, and has built the parish up both in membership and financially. He added rooms to the school which has shown a 50 per cent increase in enrollment.

Senate Facing Big Day

House Coasting; Milk, Veterans Measures Pass

By Wendell Webb

Managing Editor, The Statesman

Aiming for adjournment some time tonight (a possibility, albeit a remote one), the house of representatives faced a comparatively easy schedule today while the still-behind senate was confronted with some of the most controversial legislation of the session.

Thursday the senate gave final approval of the house-passed milk pasteurization measure (HB 234) by a vote of 17 to 12; stamped O. K. on the bill providing educational grants for veterans (HB 347); assented a short form for state income tax payers (HB 388), and approved by a vote of 26 to 3 the creation of a new state board of health (SB 89). The latter now goes to the house.

Action Deferred

The senate refused to call from committee the house bill (HB 207) providing for firemen's pensions, on the grounds firemen were covered in the public employe retirement measure (HB 344) on which action was deferred until today. Action also was delayed on the county manager permissive bill (HB 212), and on the bill prohibiting commercial fishing in most coastal streams (HB 378).

Passed in the senate were measures increasing from 3 to 4 1/2 per cent the state's "take" from pari-mutuel betting (SB 333); allowing logging trucks to proceed if their overload is less than 2000 pounds (SB 337); providing for reciprocal recognition of out-of-state motor vehicle licenses (SB 182); extending an interim study of motor vehicle taxation (HB 14), and barring Japanese aliens from holding property (SB 274).

House Through Early

Considerable doubt remained that many remaining bills would get through the house which finished its Thursday calendar in mid-afternoon, then recessed for an hour awaiting more business from the senate.

The house gave final approval to senate measures which exempt life insurance annuities from tax until the amount of the principal has been repaid (SB 9); giving the liquor commission further powers of confiscation (SB 117); fix circuit judges' salaries at \$6000 (Multnomah and Clackamas counties \$7000); provide that precinct committees shall be chosen at general elections (SB 321), and validating past marriages consummated before expiration of the six months waiting period after divorce (SB 288).

Fisheries Study Voted

The house also adopted a resolution (SJR 10) renewing the fisheries interim committee for two years, and ended legislation creating a game reserve in Polk county for six years (SB 215), allowing logging trucks to haul fish scraps

War Soon Over If This Soldier Gets Operating

WITH THE U. S. ARMY BEYOND THE RHINE, March 15.—(AP) One soldier staged a one-man German roundup today.

He started to the rear with 19 prisoners in tow. En route, the Germans called to comrades in the woods to surrender.

When the soldier reached the prison cages he was guarding 340 Germans.

Deep Slash in Civilian Shoe Leather Made

WASHINGTON, March 15.—(AP)—A deep slash in the supply of leather for civilian shoes in April, May and June was disclosed by the war production board today.

From meagre figures made public, it appeared that only 10 to 15 per cent as much cattle hide would be available for civilian shoe uppers as at present, most of the rest going to meet enormously increased army demands for footgear.

An office of price administration spokesman, however, said no change in shoe rations was contemplated, beyond the tightening announced in December when OPA said the next ration stamp "probably will not be validated until some time next summer" instead of May 1.

Men's Shoes Hit

WPB said the "impact of this shortage would fall particularly on men's shoes and on the various juvenile types which customarily utilize this type (cattle hide) of leather."

Plans are being laid, the agency announced, for a "greatly increased" production of fabric shoes as a substitute for leather footwear. Officials hope to establish a definite program setting aside textiles for non-rationed types of shoes.

Supplies Cut Sharply

The WPB said total supplies of cattle hide for civilians for the first half of this year would be 49,745,000 square feet, compared with 90,570,000 square feet in the last half of 1944.

WPB said virtually the entire cut comes in the approaching quarter, which would mean that only about 5,000,000 square feet of cattle hide will go to civilians next quarter, compared with about 45,000,000 square feet in each of the preceding three quarters.

on return trips (SB 32), and raising the salaries of most district attorneys (SB 103).

In the meantime, Gov. Earl Snell signed into law the house bill (HB 52) removing the \$40 ceiling from old-age assistance.

Both the senate and house will take up at 9:30 a.m. today in an effort to shorten the session which now is in its 68th day — 18 days after pay ceased and two days beyond the old record.

(Legislative details pages 3 and 7)

Portland Team Takes Opener From Eugene; Baker, Medford And Oregon City in Semi-finals

The 26th annual Oregon high school basketball tournament opened at Willamette university yesterday before record-breaking opening day crowds both in the afternoon and evening sessions, and when the first day's shots had been taken four teams marched into tonight's semifinals while four others stepped back to consolation play set for this morning.

In the opener Washington high's Portland Colonials nabbed a 45-32 victory over Eugene in the day's feature game. Baker followed by noting out Newberg, 33-32, Medford marched over little Vernonia, 44-29, in the night session opener and Oregon City belted Hillsboro, 43-25, in the nightcap. It was a great day for the pre-season prognosticators, for all four winning teams had many backers.

Today Eugene and Newberg open consolation play at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Vernonia-Hillsboro.

Yesterday's results: "A" championship flight: Washington 45, Eugene 32. Baker 33, Newberg 32. Medford 44, Vernonia 29. Oregon City 43, Hillsboro 25.

Today's games: "A" consolation: 9:30 a.m.—Eugene vs. Newberg. 10:45 a.m.—Vernonia vs. Hillsboro.

"B" championship openers: 3:00 p.m.—Grant Union vs. Clatskanie. 4:15 p.m.—Arlington vs. Reedsport.

"A" championship: 7:30 p.m.—Washington vs. Baker. 8:45 p.m.—Medford vs. Oregon City.

boro clash. Winners will battle Saturday morning for fourth place.

At 3 o'clock this afternoon "B" divisions open up for the championship, Grant Union of John Day going against Klatskanie in the opener and Arlington trying Reedsport in the finisher. Then at 7:30 tonight the "A" division semi-finals start, Washington playing Baker and Medford opposing Oregon City.

Although no official count was possible, yesterday's spectator crop bulged the WU gym at the seams and formed what is expected to be the largest opening-day mark in history. Over 500 fans were turned away during the afternoon session and reports were that another 500 were left out at night. Indications point to similar throngs for both the semi-final and final engagements in the "A" division.

The visual bombing of Zossen, where the highest ranking officers of the Wehrmacht were believed engaged in attempting to run the war on both the eastern and western fronts, probably will rank among the best accomplished by the Eighth air force, its officers said. Returning crewmen were jubilant over the success of the mission.

The Rhine crossing by the First Army at Remagen, where the Americans now hold 11 miles or more of the east bank, was so solid that it was announced officially the danger of its being dislodged now was past.

The Germans, who also have sent patrols across the river to the allied side, obviously seizing an opportunity afforded by these patrols clashes to bolster home-front morale, claimed a Ninth Army attempt to cross the Rhine had been smashed.

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Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson came here Monday from Star, Idaho, and were guests at the Roy Lenhardt home. The body will be shipped Saturday for final services at Star.

Besides the widower, three sons, Sgt. Norman E. in New Jersey, Pfc. Donald in England and Pfc. Marvin in Italy survive; also a sister, Mrs. Myrtle Boston of Michigan and a brother, Henry Lorison of Tillamook.

Mrs. Nicholson was crossing Front street at Hayes. The train did not slacken speed and it is believed crew members were unaware of the accident. Meanwhile the husband waited at Evenden's Drug Store for her. Many persons on Front street witnessed the accident and as the crowd gathered the waiting husband finally joined it to discover "the unknown woman killed" was his wife.

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5 Armies Striking In West

Berlin Reports U.S. 15th Joins First Bridgehead

By Austin Bealmer

PARIS, Friday, March 16.—(AP)—The US First Army deepened its Rhine bridgehead to six miles yesterday, seizing command of more than a mile of the great six-lane military highway to the Ruhr, and the Germans said five American armies were striking along 235 miles of the blazing western front.

The drive beyond the Rhine gained more than a mile during the day, swept up four more German towns and stabbed into five others. The Germans said the new US 15th army had sprung into action on the bridgehead, where 100,000 American soldiers now were massed.

The US Seventh Army broke a long lull with a general assault on a 50-mile front from the Saar to the Rhine in a synchronized attack with the US Third Army, and gained three miles or more, driving the Germans into retreat to the Siegfried line.

Third Gains 6 Miles

The US Third Army smashed six miles south from its newly-won Moselle river bridgehead near Coblenz in an offensive that was cutting in 80 miles or so behind the Siegfried line facing the Seventh Army front.

Already the push had sealed off the Rhine transit city of Coblenz, was nearing the Rhine south of the city, was pinching off the enemy's "Little Ruhr" — the Saar basin — and was challenging the Nazis' last 150-mile grip on the Rhine's west bank.

The Third Army was by far the deepest into Germany of any allied army in the west. As it closed on Boppard, an ancient Rhine center six miles south of Coblenz, it was 80 miles north of the Saar border, and nearly 70 miles west of the enemy frontier.

It was disclosed officially that the Ninth Army had been sending patrols across the Rhine in the area north of Duisberg and that they had clashed with the enemy on the east bank from time to time before withdrawing.

The Germans, who also have sent patrols across the river to the allied side, obviously seizing an opportunity afforded by these patrols clashes to bolster home-front morale, claimed a Ninth Army attempt to cross the Rhine had been smashed.

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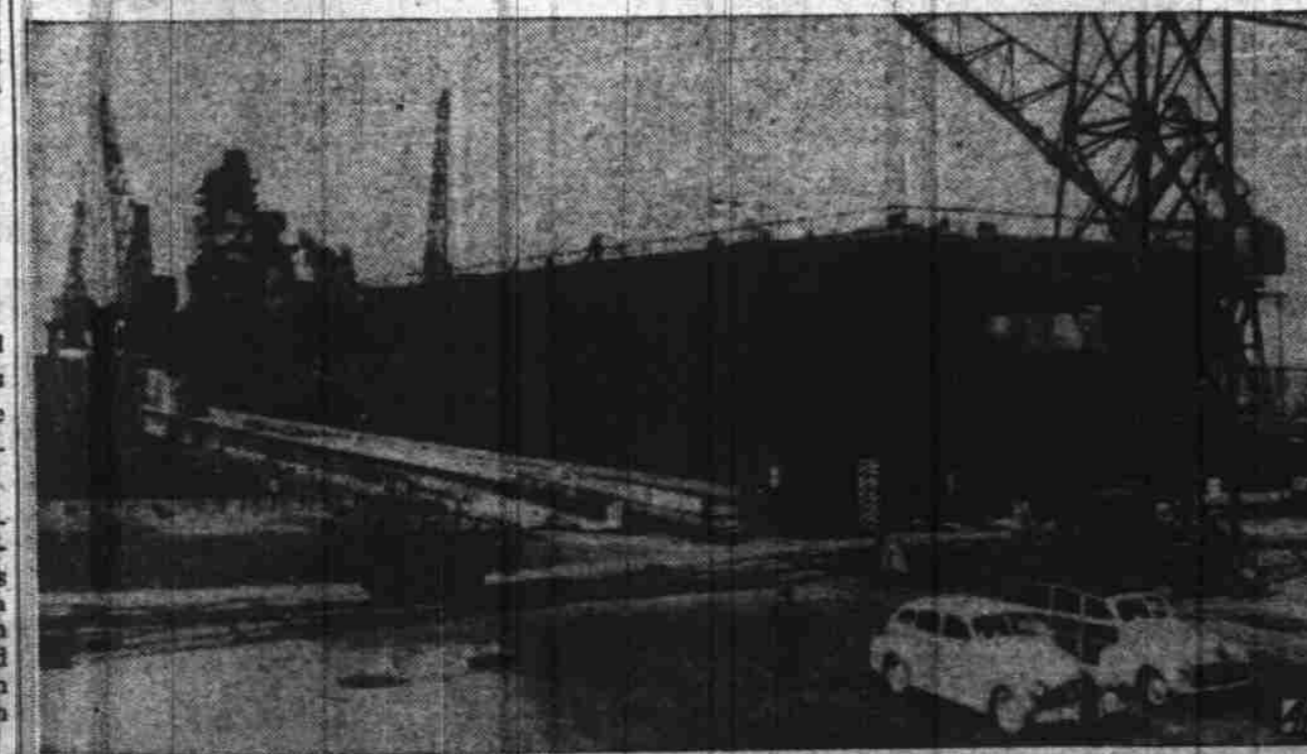
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Giant Aircraft Carrier to Be Launched Soon



Workmen put finishing touches on the hull of the new 45,000-ton aircraft carrier Midway which will be launched soon at Newport News, Va. The giant flattop will carry more than 90 twin-engine planes. (AP wirephoto from navy)

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