

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles A. Sprague

When information was given out at Yalta that Edward Flynn, ex-Tammany boss of New York, was in the presidential party the statement was made that Flynn merely was given the courtesy of accompanying the president on a journey to Moscow. He sort of thumbed a ride as far as Yalta, so it appeared.

That immediately projected the question of why Edward Flynn was going to Moscow. He occupied no official position. He had had no previous connection with Russian affairs. And people do not go to Moscow in wartime just on a sight seeing tour.

It comes about, as was surmised by alert reporters at the time, that Mr. Flynn's errand was to attempt a rapprochement between the Kremlin and the Vatican. That is a tough assignment to be sure. The hostility between these two seats of power has been long and bitter. Recently there have been exchanges showing that the antagonism has not been meliorated. What chance then would Flynn have for any concordat between the two?

He probably was picked for the effort by President Roosevelt himself. The president entertains a warm friendship for Flynn. He (the president) carries on friendly relations both with Soviet Russia and with the Roman Catholic hierarchy. Naturally he would like to see an end of the mutual recriminations between these two great powers, one political and geographic, the other primarily (Continued on Editorial page)

Senate Turns Down Williams For REA Post

WASHINGTON, March 23-(P) The senate rebuffed President Roosevelt today with a 52 to 36 rejection of his nomination of Aubrey Williams as rural electrification administrator.

Thirty-three republicans and 19 democrats joined to "blackball" the selection of the ardent new dealer for a job which in the

WASHINGTON, March 23 (P)—Washington's two democratic senators, Mitchell and Magnuson, voted today to confirm Aubrey Williams as rural electrification administrator. Senator Morse (R-Ore.) also voted for confirmation, but Senator Cordon (R-Ore.) voted against.

early post-war period may involve lending up to a billion dollars to finance rural electric lines. Voting for confirmation were 31 democrats, 4 republicans and Senator LaFollette (prog.-Wis.).

President James G. Patton, president of the Nation Farmers' union, announced at a Williams news conference that the organization would hold a "victory dinner" in honor of Williams Wednesday. He said Mrs. Roosevelt had accepted an invitation to speak.

Women Slow Legislature

PORTLAND, Ore., March 23 (P)—The Oregon legislative chambers were so crowded with women this year that there is danger of men being pushed out of the house and senate one of these years, the editor of the Oregon Voter said today.

Addressing the City club here, C. C. Chapman declared he believes the session, longest in Oregon history, was slowed down because "every time a member wanted to confer he had to crawl over some woman's legs or talk across his wife's lap."

He said the legislator's secretary usually sat on one side and his wife on the other.

Easter Sunrise Speaker Named

Rev. Dudley Strain, president of the Salem Ministerial association, will be the speaker at the Easter sunrise service Easter Sunday morning at Belcrest Memorial park.

The service is sponsored by the Hi-Y and Tri-Y groups, the Salem Christian Youth Service and the Salem Ministerial association. Dr. Willard Hall is chairman in charge. Virginia Ward Elliott, director of the Presbyterian choir, will be in charge of the music.

Weather

	MAX.	MIN.	RAIN
Salem	52	45	.00
Portland	52	45	.00
Seaside	52	45	.00
Willamette river 11 ft. 8 in.			

FORECAST: (From U. S. weather bureau, McNary field)—Partly cloudy with warmer temperatures. Increasing cloudiness and light rains expected in late afternoon.

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Yankee Carrier Bag Increases; Soviets Open Battle for Berlin

731 Jap Airplanes Claimed

Tokyo Reports U.S. Navy Blasts Ryukyu Islands

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Saturday, March 24 (P)—Carrier planes shot down, destroyed or damaged 731 Japanese planes in the March 18-19 raids on southern Japan, the navy announced today in an

SAN FRANCISCO, March 23 (P)—More than 200 carrier planes, presumably from the same task force 58 which smashed southern Japan Sunday and Monday, opened an attack Friday on Okinawa in the Ryukyu islands and resumed it Saturday (Japanese time), Tokyo radio announced.

The unconfirmed report was intercepted by the federal communications commission.

amplification of earlier reports. Previous figures were 475 enemy planes definitely destroyed and more than 100 damaged.

The new communique also supplied new details as to specific land targets damaged on Kyushu, southernmost island of Japan, but added nothing further to the earlier figures of 17 enemy warships sunk or damaged in their hideouts in Japan's inland sea.

The latest total of 731 enemy planes was made up of 281 shot down, 275 destroyed on the ground and 175 probably destroyed or damaged before they could get aloft.

The communique figures were based on further reports from Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's task force 58 covering the period of March 18 to 21.

Inasmuch as all previous official reports have listed carrier attacks on Japan only on the 18th and 19th, presumably the aerial bag also consisted of enemy planes shot down while the fleet was retreating.

Tokyo radio reports have told of such air attacks on the 20th and 21st.

The communique said the carrier plane assaults on Kyushu, barring the southern approaches to the inland sea, resulted in extensive damage to air installations at Oita, Omura, Kanoya, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Saeki and Nittagahara. Kyushu has some of the most extensive air defenses on Japan because of its strategic position.

\$2000 Fire Hits Brush Creek

SILVERTON—Fire, thought to be caused by a defective oil brooder destroyed a brooder house, 2400 baby chicks and 50 hens late Friday night here at the home of Hubert Esser, in the Brush Creek district.

Esser, a poultryman who lives on the old Carl Benson place, estimated his loss at around \$2000, 50 per cent covered by insurance. The fire also caused the electricity to be cut off in the five other brooder houses on the farm, and may cause additional damage to the chicks in those houses.

FDR Assures U.S. Delegates Free Action at Peace Meet

By Jack Bell WASHINGTON, March 23 (P)—President Roosevelt was reported to have assured United States delegates today they would have much freedom of action to chart this country's course at the San Francisco world security conference.

The president talked briefly to five of the eight members of the American group at the White House after the delegates had conferred with Undersecretary of State Joseph C. Grew, Secretary of State Stettinius, Former Secretary Cordell Hull and Comdr. Harold E. Stassen were absent.

Delegates apparently came away from the White House with the impression that Mr. Roosevelt intends to leave largely to them the

Berlin, Other Big German Centers Virtually Ruined By Heavy Allied Air Blows

LONDON, March 23 (P)—Berlin has been virtually ruined along with the devastation heaped on other German cities in unprecedented raids during the last three weeks by American and British bombers, the air ministry announced tonight.

It is estimated unofficially that more than 50,000 persons died in the flaming ruins of the Nazi capital and that 400,000 were made homeless. The center of the city is believed to be completely wrecked.

"The effect of this campaign can be estimated not only in terms of material damage, but in innumerable signs of confusion and lack of control in the enemy's war effort," the official statement said in a summary of some of the recent damage.

Never before has air power been exerted with such paralyzing effect behind any war front. One industrial and railway town after another has been ripped for both strategic and tactical reasons.

Here is the chart on some cities hardest hit by the American-British teams:

Berlin—More than 75,000 tons of bombs have been dropped on the imperiled German capital on 1500 acres inside the city limits. Not one of the hundreds of Krupp buildings remains undamaged.

Essen—The largest and one of the most heavily bombed cities in the Ruhr. It is called the "town that Krupp built" because the Krupp armament works—which attracted the bombers—covered 2150 acres inside the city limits. Not one of the hundreds of Krupp buildings remains undamaged.

Dresden—The central, south and eastern districts of this historic Saxon capital in the south are almost entirely gutted. An aircraft factory, main railroad station, and an arsenal are among the places heavily damaged.

Che-miniz—Great damage throughout the entire city, which is essential in the defense of eastern Germany. Rapid fires set in a series of attacks in the past 60 days have knocked it out as a key communications base. Its pre-war population was 370,000.

Judge Asks Adair Deals Investigation

PROTLAND, Mar. 23 (P)—Federal Judge Claude McCulloch asked today for an investigation of condemnation suits involving land acquired by the government for Camp Adair.

Judge McCulloch previously had charged he was "deceived" by attorneys into overpayments for land and that some land office appraisers gave false testimony in 24 cases involving \$200,000.

W. H. Masters, chairman of the committee on discipline for the Oregon federal court district, was asked by letter to start an inquiry. "It has been known since the first disclosure two years ago that your committee must investigate certain aspects of the condemnation cases," McCulloch wrote.

Movie Actors Against Joining With Walkout

HOLLYWOOD, March 23 (P)—Film actors, big name as well as bit players, apparently are overwhelmingly against joining the walkout of approximately 15,000 film technicians, it was disclosed by early returns today on voting of the actors.

With ballots still coming in following the deadline last night, the incomplete tabulation was 2760 votes against joining the strike and 78 favoring the walkout.

Senator Would Divide Taxpayers Into Groups

WASHINGTON, March 23 (P)—The idea of dividing the 50,000,000 American taxpayers into four alphabetical groups with different filing dates was advanced today by Senator O'Daniel (D-Tex.), as a means of getting away from the deadline rush each March 15.

O'Daniel said in letters to all his colleagues he would offer his plan as an amendment to the next tax bill.

Ducks Lose High Scoring Thriller To Arkansas U.

(By the Associated Press)

The University of Oregon Webfoots were eliminated in their National Collegiate Athletic association basketball semi-finals debut at Kansas City, Mo., last night by bowing to the Arkansas Razorbacks, 79 to 76, in a free-scoring game. Arkansas led, 47-34, at halftime. Oregon rallied in the second half and finally tied the count at 72, 74 and 76, only to lose in the final 14 seconds of the game.

The victorious Razorbacks will play Oklahoma A & M tonight for the Western regional title. Oklahoma defeated defending national champion Utah, 62-37, last night. The Kansas City winner advances to Madison Square Garden, New York, Tuesday night to play for the national championship with the eastern regional winner. (Complete details of the Oregon-Arkansas game on today's sports page, page 8.)

Bismarck Sea Sunk by Japs Off Iwo Jima

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Guam, Saturday, March 24 (P)—Japanese planes which counterattacked U. S. amphibious forces off IWO Jima the night of February 21 sank the U.S.S. Bismarck Sea, an escort carrier, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today.

The Bismarck Sea, a 400-ton vessel, was the 11th U. S. carrier listed as lost in the war. Ten of the 11 have been lost in the Pacific. Six of the flattops were escorts, one was a light carrier and four were full carriers.

Nimitz said "most" of the Bismarck Sea's personnel—estimated at 1500—were rescued but Capt. John Lockwood Pratt, the skipper, in an interview told war correspondents "many" of his men were killed in explosions caused by Japanese aerial torpedoes and by the fires which followed. He said many others were killed in the water by Japanese pilots who returned to "traf" the survivors.

Gov. Snell OKs State School Support Bill

The state school support fund bill which originated in the house of representatives during the recent session of the legislature, allocating \$8,000,000 annually for the next biennium from surplus state income tax monies, was signed Friday by Gov. Earl Snell. Public schools now receive \$5,000,000 annually from that source.

In order to apply the money as directed for increase of teachers' salaries (Salem's share will be approximately \$100,000, it is estimated), a special Salem school election must be called, district directors agreed at a recent meeting. Voters at that election would be asked to approve a budget calling for expenditure of \$100,000 above the six per cent limitation ceiling, but no additional property levy would be required.

Snell signed 33 bills Friday and vetoed HB 281 relating to the horse racing season. He explained that the step was taken "because of the obvious ambiguity and the inevitable litigation necessary to clarify its meaning."

Extension of Draft Okehed

WASHINGTON, March 23 (P)—A one-year draft law extension bill sped through the house today in less time than it takes a draft board to make a man I-A.

Less than five minutes was required to dispose of the measure. Army spokesmen had urged that the draft machinery be kept intact.

There was no debate—only a brief explanation of the 11-line bill by Chairman May (D-Ky.) of the military committee.

There was not even a vote, passage coming under procedure by which a single objection could have delayed consideration. But the absence of an objection automatically passed the bill.

AP Correspondent Ken Dixon Turns Up With Mumps

ARTESIA, NM, March 23 (P)—AP War Correspondent Kenneth L. Dixon dodged shells, bombs and small arms fire in Africa and Italy and on the western front for 18 months, came home on leave and today turned up with—the mumps.

Dixon, who plans to return to the war front soon, was ordered to bed for a week by his doctor. "I'm OK. Just tell folks not to laugh at me," he said tonight. "But," he added, "I can't help laughing myself."

Nazi Plane Opposition Too Scarce for Yanks

LONDON, March 23 (P)—Opposition from enemy planes was so scarce in the massive raids on Germany today that pilots escorting allied bomber formations returned with only a Nazi training craft added to their kills. It was bragged by Capt. George Doersch of Seymour, Wis., and Lt. Kenneth Barber of Turner, Ore.

Reds Split Defenses On Baltic

Germans Report Russ Drive Six Miles Past Oder

LONDON, Saturday, March 24 (P)—Berlin said last night that the Red army had reopened a blazing battle for the imperiled Nazi capital while Moscow announced that Russian forces had split the Nazi defenders of the prize Baltic ports of Danzig and Gdynia.

Waves of Russian infantry and tanks were reported by the enemy to have broken through Nazi defenses along Berlin's Oder river line and to have swept six miles beyond captured Kuestrin to within 31 miles east of the capital.

A thunderous 90-minute artillery bombardment, followed by attacks by hundreds of Soviet dive-bombers, preceded the assault which smashed to Golzow on the main Kuestrin-Berlin trunk railroad. There, an enemy front report said, a German counter-attack stalled the drive but the Russians struck again in a swaying, indecisive battle.

"The major Russian offensive against Berlin is immediately at hand," said a Berlin report to the German-controlled STB agency in Stockholm.

There was no confirmation of the enemy report from Moscow. At the southern end of the eastern front, however, the Red army was clamping a huge pincer on Moravia, Bohemia and Vienna.

Marshal Ivan S. Konev's First Ukrainian army reached the frontier of Moravia in pursuit of enemy forces from upper Silesia into the Sudeten mountains and battered within one and two miles of the Silesian citadels of Neisse and Loebischuetz.

Simultaneously, Berlin said a four-day Red army offensive south of the Danube river in Hungary had reached Komarom, strategic key to Bratislava and Vienna, 54 and 84 miles to the west, and Red air force heavy bombers blasted the Hungarian town of Papa.

Spain Ready For Jap War

MADRID, March 23 (P)—Spain appeared about to go to war on Japan tonight as the government awaited Tokyo's reply to a strong note of protest against the "pre-meditated murders" of Spanish nationalists prior to the liberation of Manila by American troops.

The Franco government seemed willing to carry the issue to the conclusion of war, despite a report that Germany had presented a note to the Madrid government saying any Spanish action against Japan would be considered an unfriendly act by the Reich.

2 Salem Men Killed in War

The names of Sgt. Edwin DeWayne Applegate and Pvt. Roy H. Dobell have been added to the list of Salem's war dead.

Applegate, son of Gladys Jewell, 1945 Oxford st., was killed in action March 2, in Germany.

Dobell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy H. Dobell, has been officially listed as dead. He was a prisoner aboard a Japanese freighter sunk last September.

Fog, Then Sunshine Predicted for Today

PORTLAND, March 23 (P)—Mother Nature's weather maker was one up on the official forecaster today with a brief hail storm on record amid flashes of mid-day sunshine.

The U. S. weather bureau tonight said Saturday would open with lots of fog, then clear up and remain fair all day.

Shortest Route To Berlin Open For Third Army

Yanks Overwhelm Startled Nazis, Strike Inland; Three Other Allied Armies Poised for Drive to North

By Austin Bealmear PARIS, Saturday, March 24 (AP)—The U. S. third army swarmed in strength across the Rhine Thursday night in the war's greatest river crossing, overwhelmed the startled enemy and struck inland with lightning speed from a firm bridgehead on the shortest road to Berlin—265 miles ahead.

By Friday the Americans had seized a sizeable strip of territory east of the river, for an official announcement referred to the position as a bridgehead, which in army terminology means the crossings are beyond enemy light artillery range. (That might mean they were as much as five miles beyond the Rhine.)

Three other allied armies—the American ninth, Canadian first and British second—were poised at the northern end of the front for Rhine crossings which the Germans said were imminent. Carrying out to perfection a coup rehearsed for months, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, jr., put the first American assault waves across at an undisclosed point on the east bank without the Germans firing a shot and without the loss of a man in the actual crossing.

The crossing, which the Germans said was made with amphibious tanks as well as assault boats, came without a preliminary bombardment which might have tipped off the enemy.

Patton was pressing home what might well prove a mortal blow without giving the enemy time to recuperate from the Nazi catastrophe west of the Rhine. The charging doughboys were talking in high spirits of beating the Russians to Berlin.

The enemy was so startled by this swift assault that some troops, resting from their defeat west of the river, were caught eating and not a single heavy shell was fired until two hours after the first troops touched the east bank in the moonlight of 10:25 p.m. Thursday.

Thus Patton showed his contempt for the Rhine. Germany's historic moat which never before had been stormed, although the U. S. First army won the honor of being the first across by taking the Ludendorff bridge intact at Remagen more than two weeks ago.

Germans Admit Crossing The Germans, giving the first hint of the dazzling coup, said earlier in the day that Patton had crossed near Oppenheim, 10 miles south of the fallen city of Mainz.

The ease of the crossings and the swift push inland pointed up the tremendous victory which the Third and the U. S. Seventh armies had won on the west bank.

The German First and Seventh armies, which might have been on the east bank for the defense of inner Germany, were destroyed—100,000 of their troops in prison cages and their tanks, armored vehicles, trucks and guns strewn by the thousands on the battlefield west of the Rhine.

If the Germans are correct in saying that Patton crossed at Oppenheim, then his forces are out on the Frankfurt plain on one of the best natural approaches to Berlin through the waist of Germany.

There the Rhine is 500 yards wide, and a short distance north it turns into the narrow gorge that leads on to Coblenz.

That would place it about 55 airline miles south of the First army's east bank front, which is bursting out southward and is nearing the Rhine opposite Coblenz.

Oppenheim is 20 miles southeast of Frankfurt-on-the-Main, and is little more than 300 airline miles west of where the Russians are swinging westward.

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Wave on wave of hard-hitting veterans crossed in what Associated Press Correspondent Edward D. Ball declared from the front was "the greatest over-water assault since the Normandy beaches."

The Germans then began pouring in some mortar and anti-tank fire and they were answered and silenced by thunderous salvos from American artillery drawn up along the river.

By dawn the first wave had pushed on inland and more and more men and supplies were landing on the bridgehead in assault boats. Ball said the beachhead by then had become "as quiet as a Sunday picnic."

There was no question of Patton's ability to exploit his surprise, for the stuff that he had landed far outweighed that which the Germans were able to muster after the debacle west of the river.

Cooperation Asked in Checking List of Heroes in Sunday Paper

The names of approximately 275 mid-Willamette valley men who were available to any organization wishing to make use of it or any part of it, and every effort will be made to make it as accurate as humanly possible.

The list—sadly still growing—will be available to any organization wishing to make use of it or any part of it, and every effort will be made to make it as accurate as humanly possible.

Several allied air fields are in the path of the drive, including one at Loobokov, 190 miles northwest of Hankow. The Japanese struck from bases between Kingmen, northeast of the Yangtze river port of Ichang, and Sinyang, on the Peiping-Hankow railroad.

Initial reports indicated the enemy columns were making good progress.

60,000 Japs Launch New China Drive

CHUNGKING, March 23 (P)—Sixty thousand tank-led Japanese troops have opened a new offensive northwest of the central China city of Hankow, aimed at seizing the wheat crop in northern Hupeh and southern Honan provinces and removing the Chinese threat to the Peiping-Hankow railway, the Chinese announced today.

The list has been compiled exclusively by The Statesman from many sources since Dec. 1, 1941, and has been subject to exhaustive checking.

But with many factors working against 100 per cent accuracy—such as the induction of valley men in other areas, the removal of families, notifications that might go elsewhere, mistakes in the transmission of names, etc., the aid of everyone is needed to reduce possible errors to a minimum.

For Marion county, the Federation of Patriotic Societies has enlisted The Statesman's aid in obtaining names for a plaque to be placed on the courthouse grounds, and this newspaper has been glad to cooperate.