

Floods Spreading New Havoc in Portland

(Story in Cols. 7 & 8)

IT SEEMS TO ME

By Charles F. Sorenson

A flood when the sun is shining and the streets dry seems incongruous. Yet that is the situation along the Columbia river and elsewhere in the northwest. One thinks the rains have stopped, the flood will soon subside; but the fact is the warmer the weather the faster the melt of snow to swell the rivers clear to the ocean. So in Portland and Vancouver the sun shines but the flood waters keep rising, relentlessly, remorselessly.

Portland's flood is not a raging torrent cutting away banks, washing down houses and carrying chickens and logs in its current. It is just a steady swelling of the river as water backs up from the Columbia and flows to a stop the ocean-bound Willamette. The water crawls steadily uphill, reaching the floors of the docks, surrounding riverside factories, creeping steadily uptown.

The great catastrophe of course was the drowning of a whole city — though fortunately with little or no loss of life — almost a miracle when one knows how little time there was for inhabitants of the wartime city to escape. There the backed up waters poured through a break in the dike quickly to overwhelm the still living city which once had claimed distinction as the (Continued on editorial page.)



Tragedy Raging torrents from the greatest flood in modern northwest history left this scene of destruction and desolation yesterday at Vanport, the nation's largest war housing project from which more than 18,000 persons fled for their lives when a sudden dike break let in the full fury of the water Sunday night. (Oregonian photo). Other photos on page 3.)

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Troops Aim for Tel Aviv

CAIRO, May 31.—(AP)—Allied Arab armies poured men, guns and armor into a 40-mile front aimed at Tel Aviv and the entire southern half of embattled Israel's coastal strip.

The front extends from Jerusalem to Tulikarm, a dispatch from central Palestine said. It forms the eastern side of a gigantic encircling movement the Arabs said their troops were making around Tel Aviv, initial capital and military headquarters of the new Jewish state.

The front issued by the Arab higher committee in Cairo claimed that Iraqi troops had cut off Tel Aviv from the northern port of Haifa by slicing through the coastal strip. There was no confirmation from Arab military circles.

The announcement said the Iraqi soldiers captured Natanya, on the coast 18 miles north of Tel Aviv. Arab Legionnaires from Trans-Jordan announced they had smashed a Jewish attempt to open the vital Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. The Jews lost 114 dead, an Amman communique said. The highway battle was fought in the Bab El Wad-Latrun area 10 to 14 miles west of Jerusalem.

One Arab informant said Iraqi soldiers were only three miles from Tel Aviv. The Jews conceded Iraqi troops were within nine miles of the city at one point.

An Israeli communique said Arab aircraft were Tulikarm yesterday. This may have been the first combat of the 16-day-old war. "One enemy Spitfire was seen to explode in the air," the bulletin said.

90 Missing From Launch

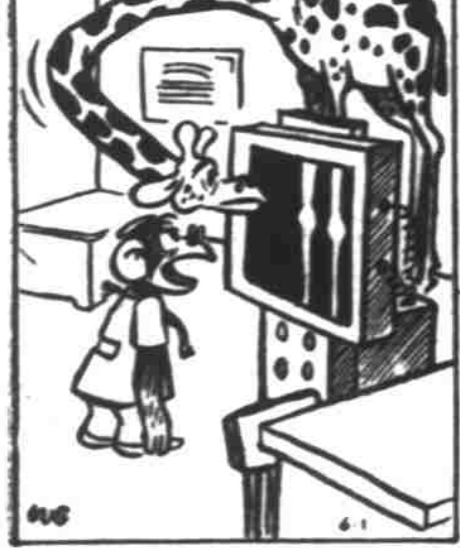
NORFOLK, Va., June 1.—(AP)—A score of small vessels and tugs combed the rough waters of Hampton Roads early today in search of 90 members of the armed forces from aboard the aircraft carrier Kearsarge.

They were thrown into the waters when a 40-foot motor launch was overturned approximately one-half mile off the piers of the Norfolk naval station.

Fifth naval district officials could make no immediate estimate of the number of lives that may be lost. They said the cause of the overturning of the launch had not been determined.

Animal Crackers

By WARREN GOODRICH



"Please, Sir—would you mind if I made the diagnosis?"

Evacuation of Lower Columbia Ordered

Signup of Evacuees Sought; Salem Clubs Aid Flood's Victims

Instructions to "be ready if needed" dominated alert orders to the Marion county Red Cross Monday, as the chapter attempted to register all evacuees who had come here from the flooded Vanport area.

Marion county Red Cross and various Salem veteran and civic groups are "standing by" with more aid, if needed, today for victims of the Vanport city flood at Portland Sunday.

Scores of calls from Salem area residents came into the Red Cross office Monday offering aid. "The response was truly heart-warming," Susan Faherty, local chapter executive manager, reported last night.

All Vanport residents who are now in Salem are asked to register with the Red Cross here immediately so that Portland authorities may be notified. About 25 families, representing around 75 persons, were registered Monday.

For the most part they were flood evacuees here with relatives. If these families need clothing, food, medical aid or any other assistance, they may notify the Salem Red Cross for aid, Miss Faherty said.

The local office has been alerted since Sunday night with a staff of 10 including Miss Faherty and W. M. Hamilton, chapter chairman. The office telephone was manned all last night by a group of volunteer members of Capital post 9, American Legion.

The local staff was routed out early Monday morning to transport to Portland a group of 15 Red Cross disaster officials who were rushed from San Francisco to Salem by plane.

Clothing for flood victims is being accepted at the Salem veterans housing project on Cross street, it was announced Monday by Joseph Hopkins, project manager. The clothing will be transported direct to Portland, he said.

Officials of Salem Eagles lodge announced that clothing for flood victims be accepted at the Eagles hall all day today and this evening. A first shipment of clothing from the district was made Monday.

Those registered are: Mr. and Mrs. John N. Kirkwood and son, Johnnie; Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Winter and three children; John W. Meyer, jr.; Gordon Tricker; Mr. and Mrs. Dale Reeves and baby; Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Miller and two children at Vancouver; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest F. Andrews and daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stoddard; Wynona Cartensen; Harry Roberts; J. K. Maher; Mrs. Frank Funfeld; Leo and Rose Backstrand at Albany; Mr. and Mrs. O. T. Thompson and daughter; Mr. and Mrs. William Thompson and daughter Judith Marie; Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Roudhouse and baby at Albany; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Sturgis; Mr. and Mrs. Milton Cowan and children; Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm MacDonald (child at Portland); Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Hambleton and children; Mrs. Richard Owen; Loren Reynolds; James and Hazel Rountree; Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Cox and son; Duane E. Roberts; Horace Pouppert; Harvey and Stella Hall; Mr. and Mrs. Truett D. Lawrence and son; Mr. and Mrs. Francis Callea; L. C. McCumber; Ralph Smith; Patry Morrill; Mr. and Mrs. Fred G. Weed and daughter.

Approximately 80 Vanport flood survivors now in Salem and nearby cities have reported their safety to the Marion county chapter of the American Red Cross in Salem. Nearly all the survivors are housed in Salem residences and a few in local hotels, the chapter said Monday night. This list does not include evacuees at the state fairgrounds.

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Rivers Damage 10,000 Homes; Airlines Base Flights Here

ONG Aircraft Arrive; Field Traffic-Jammed

PORTLAND, Ore., May 31.—(AP)—Evacuation of all districts behind the dikes of the flooded lower Columbia river was ordered tonight as the area fought its worst disaster in the region's history.

The army engineers corps said everybody must get out except men and troops working on the protective works.

Col. O. E. Walsh, district army corps engineer, said this affected all diked districts along the 120-mile drainage area of the lower river from near Portland to the Pacific ocean.

The order came soon after the town of Clatskanie was ordered to evacuate its 1,000 people to highlands from behind a dike threatened by high tide threatening to spill over into the area.

Maj. Delbert York, Astoria, has ordered company 11 of the Oregon national guard mobilized and to the scene.

Army engineers would not estimate the number of persons affected by the order. Thousands live there, but it was not known precisely how many were behind embankments immediately in danger.

Oregon's Solons Arranging Aid to Victims of Flood

WASHINGTON, May 31.—(AP)—All possible government aid to Oregon's flooded areas was promised today by members of the state's congressional delegation.

Every member of the delegation kept his office open during the day — most government offices were closed — in an effort to line up assistance.

Senator Cordon and Reps. Angell, Elsworth and Norblad kept in touch with the White House and urged that the president take whatever action possible to provide relief for the stricken area.

Angell said he and other members of the delegation also conferred with other officials of the Red Cross, army engineers, housing administration and war assets administration. He said he is hopeful of quick action to provide housing for the flood sufferers.

Members of Salem's company B guard unit are guarding the national guard planes under the command of Capt. Burl L. Cox. Captain Cox said Monday that the Salem unit had not been called on for any further assistance in the Vanport flood disaster.

City and state police unsharped traffic jams on the airport highway and the road and parkways at the field yesterday. Buses, taxis, autos, gasoline trucks and air line passenger cars snafued the roads constantly.

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Vanport Wiped Out; Thousands More Homeless

PORTLAND, Ore., May 31.—(AP)—The rampaging flood waters which wiped out nearby Vanport late Sunday crashed through another Columbia river dike here tonight and to the north drove another 3500 persons from South Kelso and Woodland, Wash.

The new break here just north of the city sent flood waters crashing toward \$1,500,000 Portland Meadows race track, and for a time left in doubt the fate of the occupants of a car which Portland General Electric Co. said it believed was one of its emergency vehicles. Mike Skag normally is driver of the car.

The area had been evacuated previously but several workmen attempting to stem the water from Vanport, adjoining the area, were almost caught in the deluge. All horses had been removed from the track.

The Union avenue fill was expected to keep waters of the new break-through from reaching farmlands.

At South Kelso, 50 miles to the north, the populace was fleeing from the threatened dikes of the Coweeman river, and at Woodland, 30 miles north, where the water poured through the Lewis river dike.

The ample warnings in both South Kelso and Woodland forestalled a repetition of the flood that crashed without warning through a dike to destroy Vanport Sunday afternoon.

Hope that the Vanport disaster had not caused a major loss of life rose tonight as rescue boats finished a full day of search without finding a victim amid the shattered houses and submerged streets. But much of the wreckage lay buried under 15 feet of water, too deep to be investigated.

"Missing" Reports Being Shortened

The Red Cross was slowly shortening the missing reports tonight, as families separated in the flight from the flooded town were reunited. The number who escaped safely was called "almost, miraculous" by rescue workers. More than 18,000 persons resided in Vanport. Sixty injured were in Portland hospitals.

"There undoubtedly are many bodies," said Sheriff Martin T. Pratt. "I will not venture a guess on how many."

The Red Cross reported "dozens" of missing -- but could not yet tell how many lay buried in the flood, and how many were scattered safely through Portland's refugee centers.

Evacuees, crying frantically for missing husbands, wives, and children, were barred from the devastated zone by the danger of still more floods.

The Portland housing authority late tonight announced the shattering of Vanport represented a loss of \$21,490,000 plus the estimated \$5,328,000 of personal belongings and \$800,000 in automobiles of the survivors and probable victims. This loss came in less than an hour as the water burst upon the dike surrounded city.

The waters, swollen by the flooded Columbia river, smashed at other dikes today. Denver avenue, the elevated street to which thousands of Vanport residents fled to safety yesterday, caved in at one point this morning.

Workers sandbagged against time, hoping to save remaining dikes until the flood reaches its height tomorrow night. The weather bureau forecast that the Columbia would crest here then at the anticipated stages of 31 feet at Vancouver and 30.3 feet at Portland, and then start to fall.

The floods curtailed the Pacific northwest's power supply, and power officials called upon Washington and northern Oregon industry and household to conserve electricity.

The floods cut off Portland's rail traffic northward and eastward, partly inundated the main Union depot in Portland, halted all commercial airplanes, and cut the Columbia river highway (U. S. 30) at two points -- The Dalles and Arlington.

Later today, however, the Union Pacific re-established rail service, utilizing steam locomotives to move their trains through the flooded section near The Dalles. Northbound passengers were taken to Kelso, Wash., to board trains.

Airlines began operating out of Salem, the state capital 50 miles south of here.

Waters Creeping into East Portland

Flood waters seeped over low-lying blocks in Portland, chiefly on the east side of the Willamette river. It was not deep enough to endanger any lives, but the property damage was expected to run into thousands of dollars.

Col. O. E. Walsh, district army engineer, ordered complete evacuation of peninsula diking district No. 2. This included the few householders left there and hundreds of dike workers.

The district was abandoned when a break-through became imminent between the Portland Yacht club and the Faloma school.

It extends approximately two miles east of Portland Meadows. In the area are the Portland Yacht club, the Columbia-Edgewater Country club, Dairy Farms, the village of Faloma, several auto tourist camps, and scattered rows of houses. Most residents fled yesterday.

RAIL SERVICE HALTED

YAKIMA, May 31.—(AP)—Freight and passenger service was suspended today on the Union Pacific branch line between here and Walla Walla because of flood conditions. V. E. Buchanan, general agent for the railroad here, said one of the approaches to a bridge was weakened.

OUR SENATORS

Won 2-1 - Lost 9-8

Weather

	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Salem	77	50	.00
Portland	77	50	.00
San Francisco	82	51	.00
Chicago	80	51	.00
New York	80	51	.00

FORECAST (from U.S. weather bureau, McNary field, Salem): Partly cloudy today with a few light showers; partly cloudy Wednesday. High today 72, low tonight 50. Light precipitation will not interfere with most farm work but moderate afternoon winds will interfere with dusting.

SALEM PRECIPITATION (From Sept. 1 to June 1)

This Year	Last Year	Average
48.90	33.30	45.50

Classified Ads Pay . . .

And to provide the maximum service in proper classification and handling, The Statesman effective tonight is setting a deadline for its classified ad pages of 5:45 p. m.

No classified advertising will be accepted after that hour, and there will be no "Too Late to Classify" column except for emergency "lost" ads.

Classified advertising may be telephoned, 9101, from 9 a. m. to 5:45 p. m. daily. Setting of the deadline, in the interests of efficiency and service, entails no change whatever in rates. Your classified advertising will be welcomed.

Your Home Newspaper

Creeping Waters Bring Fish to Boys

PORTLAND, Ore., June 1.—(AP)—Flood waters are inching into the railroad yards of downtown Portland, to the delight of small boys.

Fish come right along with the flood. With whoops of joy and much splashing the boys chase the fish in shallow water between rails, catching many with their bare hands. Most are thrown back.

Snafu in the Ether!

The complete confusion resulting from spotty acceptance of daylight savings time has rendered useless most of the radio schedules received over the weekend by The Oregon Statesman. Until the stations coordinate their schedules to the standard-time Salem area, the schedules will be withheld from publication. They will be resumed as soon as a measure of accuracy is restored. Those whose programs have been geared to this area are listed on page 10.