

Boom in Study Of Languages

London (AP)—Language schools reported the number of persons studying foreign languages today to be three to four times that pre-war, civilians and soldiers alike optimistically preparing for what is to come after Adolf Hitler.

Learning Italian, German, Russian, French—even Chinese—are businessmen, British and American troops, and civilian opportunists along with the usual batches of diplomats. "And every man," a language instructor told the United Press, "wants to learn in a hurry."

Looking over foreign language London, there was this picture:

German—the trade folded up when Poland was invaded, but the business now is picking up, "and a rush is expected."

Italian Booming

Italian—booming. W. J. Gilbert, British Isles director of the Berlitz schools, said "the study of Italian was as dead as a dodo after Italy stabbed France, but the increase since the invasion of Sicily has been extraordinary."

French—the business has been "enormous"—has been since the Allied occupation of North Africa.

Russian — busy and increasing. The demand for translation into Russian of technical manufacturing terms has been more than language schools could handle.

Japanese—virtually a dead language. One trouble has been in finding a Japanese instructor. Another, that nobody, apparently, wants to learn it.

Men, and women, with eyes on the shrinking Axis map were demanding to learn in a hurry, and to meet the requirements, language teachers were attempting to devise basic German, basic Italian, trying to pattern something like the 850-word basic-English. Observers said the efforts were meeting with varying success, but "basic" courses were not being taught in the big schools.

Months Required

It still was taking months to develop a language student beyond the gibbering stage. The director of one school said he wouldn't regard a man as able to speak a foreign tongue in anything less than three to four years study.

Some countries, Holland and Turkey among them, were conducting their own schools.

In the American Army, classes were running in French and Russian. Instruction on a lesser scale was being given troops in Spanish, Italian, German, Czech, Slovenian and Hungarian.

Return to Bojano



Sticks and stones are all that's left of her home as this Italian woman returns from the hills to her home at Bojano after war rolled by.

With the Americans, the accent was "on the fundamentals." Soldiers, courses voluntarily, in their own spare time.

"We put the emphasis on simple conversation," an Army instructor said. "We first teach a man enough to ask for water, and where he can eat—afterward, he can go on from there."

Alfalfa

Alfalfa, Dec. 21 (Special)—Mrs. H. Massey and her two daughters, Mrs. C. H. Miles and Nellie left last Wednesday for their home in Alabama after they had spent a few weeks at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Joslyn. Another daughter, Mary, also was here for a week from Los Angeles, Calif. She returned to her home Sunday. Mrs. Joslyn also is a daughter of Mrs. H. Massey of Alabama.

Last Friday E. Joslyn met his mother, Mrs. Joslyn from California in Bend where she will visit with Mr. Joslyn and family. The home economics club met with Mrs. M. Stoffel at her home.

Special Session Talk Bobs Up in Oregon's Capital

By Jerry Hanniffa

(United Press Staff Correspondent)
Salem, Dec. 21 (AP)—Gov. Earl Snell has asked caution in considering plans for a special session of the Oregon legislature to provide money for postwar enterprises for returning service men.

The Oregon war dads, a Portland group which up to very recently had been content to provide social activity for its members, has blossomed into a pressure unit and suggested a special session be held to create greater financial reserves to finance postwar projects.

The state income tax has been cut 75 per cent for next year, and at a time when its citizens' income never was higher. The Oregon war dads feel that part of that high income should be taxed away for postwar reemployment programs.

Session Not Opposed

Gov. Snell has not opposed the suggested special session. He has asked its proponents to take it "slow and easy." He pointed to the creation of a state postwar development and readjustment committee as well as the creation of a \$5,000,000 reserve fund for the postwar period.

The governor reminded the Oregon war dads of the complications involved in calling a special session. He reminded them the very suggestion they make was under consideration in the legislature only nine months ago.

State Senator Coe McKenna of Portland has called a portland meeting of the "dads" tonight. They'll probably consider their major projects, a minimum \$10,000,000 cash fund.

Appears Useless

The 1943-44 state fiscal year already has been planned, the income tax levy blanks printed, and the budget set up. Under Oregon law, a legislative act adjusting the state's tax system would not become operative for 90 days. Thus, it would seem useless to call a special session immediately.

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