

U. S. Takes Over More Properties Of Ward Firm

Chicago, Jan. 2 (UP)—The government took over two additional warehouses of Montgomery Ward and company in Detroit today as Maj. Gen. Joseph W. Byron, army officer assigned to run the seized Wards properties, announced uncooperative company personnel would be removed to facilitate his assignment.

Byron announced at the headquarters he has set up in the Montgomery Ward executive offices that officers he had sent to Detroit to survey the Wards' situation there had recommended the government take possession of the additional warehouses to make the government's operation effective in that area.

Byron said the additional Ward properties were taken over by the army at 9:40 a. m., CWT.

Second in Week
The government seizure of Ward facilities was the second within a week. The army last Thursday seized properties of the mail order and retail store firm in seven cities, including Detroit, for failure to comply with a war labor board order covering wages and maintenance of membership.

The seizure last week met passive resistance from Ward officials in Chicago and elsewhere.

In a statement released by the war department, Byron said a report on the Wards case had been made to the department, of justice "with the request that appropriate steps be taken, including investigation by representatives of the federal bureau of investigation."

Byron noted that Sewell Avery, Montgomery Ward chairman, and other company representatives had declined to conduct the company's business under his direction. He said this made it necessary for him to place operating personnel at each of the seized properties.

"This personnel will include officers with long experience in the merchandising field," Byron said.

Get Instructions

These officers were instructed to replace all personnel refusing to carry out their instructions, arrange to handle receipts and expenditures, examine books and records, examine payrolls in order to carry out their instructions, arrange to handle receipts and expenditures, examine books and records, examine payrolls in order to effect the wage increases directed by the war labor board including retroactive pay, and deal with labor unions for the purpose of making WLB directives effective.

"Instructions have been given looking toward the reclassification under selective service of such personnel of the company as may be replaced because of their refusal to carry out my instructions," Byron said.

Move Explained

Byron explained in order to take over specified stores and warehouses in six other cities, it was necessary for him to take possession of the main offices at Chicago.

"This was done because part of the operation of the properties, enumerated in the executive order, at which labor disputes existed, are conducted from these offices," Byron said.

"Since the business of the more than 850 other stores and mail order houses and plants of Montgomery Ward & Co., Inc., are also conducted from the main office, I have not interfered with the access of the company's officials there and have permitted them to utilize these facilities for the operation of the other business of the company."

May Take Over

"Should the occasion arise I will also assume possession of such other plants and facilities that may be needed in connection with my operation, as provided in the executive order."

It was explained at the war department the latter assertion applied to various installations at the seven cities named in the executive order which as yet have not been taken over, but would not apply to other Montgomery Ward properties in other localities.

G. I. ORDERS TROUSSEAU

Carrier Mills, Ill. (UP)—Fred Wasson, Carrier Mills merchant Mills, who is stationed in Italy, James Finis Holmes of Carrier has received an order from Pvt. which asked him to send a troussseau for his bride-to-be, an Italian girl. The only indication given of the fiancée's size was that it was about the same as one of the clerks in the store.

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Utah Train Wreck Kills 48



Between 50 and 65 persons were killed, more than 100 were injured in this wreckage of two sections of the Southern Pacific's crack westbound Pacific Limited passenger train near the shore of Great Salt Lake, 14 miles west of Ogden, Utah, shown here telescoped after the 12-car second section plowed into it.

Colonel F. S. Besson, Veteran Of Two Wars, Soon to Retire

(Colonel Frank S. Besson, who commanded Camp Abbot during the entire period it was in use as an engineers' replacement training center, is soon to retire, it was announced last week in a new release from Fort Lewis. Because of interest locally, and because the original news release only partly covered Colonel Besson's varied services in two wars, the announcement of the officer's retirement is being used in full today.)

Fort Lewis, Wash., Jan. 2 — After 39 years of distinguished service with the corps of engineers, Col. Frank S. Besson, commanding officer of the engineer section of this army service forces training center, has announced his intention to retire from active service.

Col. Charles F. Balsh, deputy commander of the engineer section, assumed command of the section last week when Colonel Besson was admitted to Madigan general hospital for a physical examination preparatory to retirement.

Colonel Besson's notable career began at West Point in the United States Military Academy from which he graduated in 1909 with high honors which brought his assignment to the corps of engineers. While at West Point, the engineer commander won the coveted "Saber," emblematic of the year's outstanding athlete at the academy.

Toul, Cantigny, Soissons—battles of world war I, were milestones in the service of Colonel Besson when he was in command of the First Engineers of the First Division along the scarred Western front when allied offensives raged through the Hun lines until November 11, 1918. For this service, Colonel Besson was decorated with the French Fourragere for outstanding exploits by the organization he commanded.

Since the battles of the first war, Colonel Besson enjoyed distinction as a graduate of the Command and General Staff school at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and from the Army War college. He was later an instructor at the Fort Leavenworth army school.

After serving as division engineer of the Missouri river division, Colonel Besson entered upon a series of training commands. In 1942, he assumed command of the engineer replacement training center at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and a year later was named commander at Camp Abbot, Ore., where he built, opened and developed an outstanding training center which was soon rated with the best in the country.

In 1944 the ASPTC at Camp Abbot was moved to Fort Lewis, Wash., and became the present engineer training section with Colonel Besson in command.

After his graduation from West Point in 1909, he was promoted to first lieutenant on March 2, 1912, and to captain on June 31, 1916, and then rose to temporary ranks of major, lieutenant colonel, and colonel during his world war I service. On February 2, 1920, he attained the permanent rank of major. Colonel Besson was promoted to his present, and permanent rank on June 1, 1938.

Behind the erect, iron-gray engineer commander stands a military family active on many fronts in the current fight. One son, Col. Frank S. Besson, Jr., is commander of the Iranian military railroad; another, Maj. Robert Besson, is a prisoner of the Japanese; his son-in-law, Lt. Col. Milton B. Adams, is with a fighter squadron in the southwest Pacific; and his daughter, Mrs. Jean Besson Adams, is a service club hostess and a former Wac captain.

To the colonel is credited much of the development in training practices and in the use of training aids for his work at the three engineer training installations which he had commanded during the present war. His rigid insistence upon perfection in training has shown results as thousands of well-trained engineer soldiers have come out from his camps to perform distinguished exploits on battlefields in many theaters of the war.

Officers and men of the engineer section were expressing re-

Murder Charge Faces Bud Harris

Salem, Ore., Jan. 2 (UP)—A charge of second degree murder was lodged late yesterday against George E. (Bud) Harris, 33, Brooks, who was arrested Sunday after the fatal shooting of Charles Batchelor, 35.

Batchelor was shot, Harris told police, in a scuffle when Harris returned home early Sunday morning to find the other man there with his wife. The accused man said he fired intentionally at Batchelor's legs once, and that the fatal bullet was discharged while the two men were fighting.

Harris had returned from a trip with some Boy Scouts to get his hunting clothes for a Sunday hunting jaunt. He called the police after the fatal shooting and made no attempt to resist arrest. No inquest will be held, according to Coroner L. E. Barriek, who said that the facts of the case are known.

Mrs. Harris was quoted by state police as saying that she did not "know there was a man in the house" until her husband returned. Batchelor is survived by his wife, Mrs. Frances Batchelor of Salem, three children and his mother.

War Briefs ---

(By United Press)

Western Front— Germans reported withdrawing from western half of Ardennes salient as American Third army crushes Nazi counterattack on Bastogne and wheels north into western flank of enemy on 15 mile front.

Eastern Front— Massed Russian guns begin leveling Budapest as Red army, inflamed by murder of two emissaries, declares no quarter for Germans trapped in city.

Air War— American heavy bombers and fighters roar over Germany for 11th straight day as Allied fliers count toll of at least 206 enemy planes in New Year's day combats.

Pacific— American land-based planes extended offensive against Luzon to almost 150 miles north of Manila.

Italy— Patrols active on Fifth and Eighth army fronts while bad weather restricts air operations.

Barry (The Little Priest) Fitzgerald—who made you laugh, cry and cheer... in "Going My Way"... is on his way again, with Paulette Goddard and Sonny Tufts... in
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Holiday Deaths Reach 241 Mark

(By United Press)

Deaths caused by accidents during the three-day holiday weekend reached 241 today, with the collision of two sections of a Southern Pacific passenger train claiming 48 lives.

Aside from the train wreck, which occurred near Ogden, Utah, California led the states with 22 deaths. Pennsylvania was second with 18 and Michigan third with 15.

Through the nation, traffic accidents took more than 115 lives.

On the whole, however, it appeared unlikely that final reports would boost the traffic toll to the 350 figure predicted for the weekend by the National Safety Council.

The Safety Council estimate, based on previous holiday accidents, included all persons who will die of injuries received during the three-day period.

Over 100 factories in Brazil are now making chemical products.

Pacific Veteran Is Bend Visitor

Elvin York, seaman 1/c, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. York, 2188 Awbrey road, after active duty in the Pacific. Elvin said today that a Jap dive bomber gave him a bad scare in the Philippine area last fall when it circled his ship, coming lower and lower but finally decided to attack a destroyer in the convoy. It was driven off by anti-aircraft fire before inflicting much damage.

Elvin, who attended Bend high school, entered the navy last January.

His brother, Pvt. Harold L. York, visited Bend in early December. Harold entered the army two years ago.

A mosquito survey now underway in Connecticut will not try to take a mosquito census but will endeavor to locate the mosquito breeding places and to decide upon the necessary steps to remove them.

MONTGOMERY WARDS ANSWER TO THE ORDER OF SEIZURE BY THE PRESIDENT

The order of the president to effect the seizure of the property and business of Montgomery Ward is a violation of the constitution of the United States, which the president has sworn to uphold and defend. The Congress, which is the sole law-making authority under the constitution, has given the president no power to seize the non-war business of Montgomery Ward.

The purpose of the president's order is to enforce, by an exercise of arbitrary power, orders of the War Labor Board which the courts have declared to be merely advisory and legally unenforceable. The courts have held that anyone who refuses to comply with orders of the War Labor Board is not defying a command of the government and that, since the orders are merely advisory, no government official has the right to impose punishments on those who do not comply.

The president's order does not arise from any failure on Wards part to pay fair wage rates. Wards policy is, and has been, to pay wages as high as or higher than those paid by other employers in the community for similar employment. Wards only objection to any of the War Labor Boards wage recommendations has been in those instances where the board has arbitrarily demanded that Wards substantially increase its rates above those of its competitors in the highly competitive retail field.

The president has ordered the army to restrict the liberties of Wards employees by imposing upon them the closed shop in the form of union maintenance. This is the final step in the coercion used by the administrative agencies of the government to force the closed shop upon employers and employees throughout the nation. Wards has long believed that when the public awakens to the extent of this coercion, it will rise in indignation.

Wards defense of the freedom of its employees has not been prompted by any feeling of anti-unionism. All employees at Wards are free to join or not to join a union, as they wish. Wards fully recognizes this privilege and has assured all employees that their opportunity with the company will be the same whether they are union members or not.

Wards cannot in good citizenship accept or obey the commands of those who have no legal power to give them and who are seeking to deprive Wards of its constitutional rights and liberties. Wards takes this position in defense of the constitutional rights and liberties of every citizen of the United States.

The issues are now before the courts, where Wards has sought for two years to have them decided. Wards welcomes the opportunity to present its case to the courts.

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