

# Mine Fields and Barbed Wire Make Iron Curtain An Ugly Reality Today

Vienna - (UP) - The "Iron Curtain" seen close up is more than a politician's phrase - it is an ugly reality.

The "Curtain" over much of its length consists of two lines of wire entanglement, mine fields, control strips, signal wires, defense ditches and watch towers. Its average width is 550-650 yards. It is found on all boundaries where the eastern Communist satellites touch the West.

The wire entanglement consists of stretched out barbed wire. The 4-foot-tall posts are set in concrete in the earth 6-8 feet east of the border. A second row of barbed wire is seven feet from the first. Between the border marking stones and the wire fence is a path which the Communist border patrols use for their "control" walks.

Many of the mine fields were newly sown in 1957 with tread mines which explode with the slightest movement. They are very hard to locate, as they are camouflaged with clumps of earth. Any one of them will explode when disturbed by a weight as little as six pounds. Where the border crosses a lake, the barbed wire continues into the water. Mines are attached to the permanent buoys.

### Objective Patterns

The mines are planted in the earth in so-called "objective patterns." Sometimes they are in three row mosaics, sometimes in lopsided rows, and sometimes in no discernible pattern. Every mine field belongs exclusively to the plan of a mile-long border strip. The end of each mine field is marked with white or red flags.

Every so often there is a small space of three or four yards between the flags leaving a narrow exit across the minefield. A taut wire three yards behind the barbed wire marks the limit of the mine field and touching it sets off signal rockets.

Next is a narrow field called the "silent field" into which only officers are allowed to enter, and then only in special cases. Patrols enter only when a man has been discovered attempting to flee.

East of the "silent field" run the control strips, a part of the Iron Curtain which is kept unshown and carefully raked. Specially trained officers are concerned only with reading the traces left in this soft strip of earth.

The line of watch towers is the next part of the death strip. Sometimes they are built touching the border of the control strips and other times they are from 50-250 yards away. The distance depends on the visibility and the contour of the land.

The watch tower is eight to ten yards tall—a simple wooden cabin perched on a rickety wooden scaffolding. The watch cabin is outfitted with four small rectangular peep holes, and is surrounded by a narrow balcony. The structure, when viewed from afar, looks like a factory whistle stuck in the middle of nowhere.

The border soldier, a member of the state security service, is taught that his enemies - i.e. the "imperialists," "fascists" and "capitalists" - may approach under the earth and along secret ways in order to snuff out his life and that of his country.

### Secret Infiltration

He learns that although there are no watch towers, no mine fields and no barbed wire on the other side, the "peoples democracies" must be protected from secret infiltration. Thus he faces his western neighbor with a real hate and is ready to fire at anyone who comes from there. To protect the actual Iron Curtain from infiltration from

either direction, there are Communist patrols of two or three men each.

They move along two lines - one next to the cleared control strips, the other between the numerous watch towers. Their duty hours are so arranged that patrols along the same line meet one another once an hour. If any sort of border violation is discovered, the patrol remains standing and one of the soldiers reports to the watch tower, which contains a telephone with a direct line to the next post. This post can, in turn, call the defense department.

The defense department will be notified if as few as 10 men have been discovered. When the band consists of only two or three it is cause enough to seal the six to 12 mile wide military border.

This is done by doubling the patrols, controlling all roads with soldiers and notifying civil agents and informers. Blood hounds are brought into the trouble area and the Iron Curtain becomes an iron belt, completely under military control.

### Little Chance

The intruder (or, as one says in the "peoples democracies," the "enemy") has little chance of success. His traces, which are impossible to conceal in the carefully smoothed control strip, usually will be found by the patrols within the hour.

It is hard to find refuge anywhere because nobody knows who is an agent of the secret police. A person feels he is so closely guarded that he wouldn't even risk hiding members of his own family.

If the intruder escapes the border patrols - and astonishingly many do - he probably will be discovered before getting too far. Everyone who lives inside the 12 mile border area is given a so-called "border-area pass" which must be renewed every three months and presented for inspection to the local police chief once a month.

## Grange Notes

### Central Point Grange

The Central Point Grange and friends watched a demonstration of judo before the meeting Friday, Jan. 20.

Tom Ball, instructor of Medford, and his team, which included Lee Garrett, Edwin Stuart, Mike Byrne, and Larry Nolte, presented various types of throws. Ball gave a brief history of judo, and emphasized the point that judo is a safe, relaxing sport for anyone of any age.

Preceding the demonstration, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Bohnert presented a short skit. Lecturer Dee Hendrickson plans to have other Grange members give skits at each meeting.

During the business session, committee reports were discussed. One resolution was referred to the resolutions committee for further study, and will be considered at the Feb. 3 meeting.

Reports of bills in the state legislature is of importance to Grangers.

Mr. and Mrs. Omar Culy of Upper Applegate Grange were visitors.

The charter was draped in memory of Fred Sanders, who was a lifetime member of the Central Point Grange.

Serving committee for the evening included Mr. and Mrs. Lester Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Flux, and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Keenan.

These facts would make it appear that the Iron Curtain is impenetrable. But, as law statutes have holes, so has this system. For example, in a few places, as in Deutschkreutz, Austria, the Iron Curtain runs between the houses of the village, turning neighbors into citizens of hostile countries. In Eisenstadt, Austria, the curtain divides the town graveyard into East and West.

There also is a part of the military area which is not mined. This is a "hole" where trains cross the border into the West. The control here, however, is most careful. At night the trains are lit with floodlights from below, so that nobody can hide between the axles. Every inch of the train is then searched before it crosses the border.

There are, however, numerous cases where flight into the West has been successful. But excepting the cases where the border officers can be bribed (at prices ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000), taking a chance on crossing the mine fields safely is like playing a game of roulette.

And the stakes can go no higher - freedom or death.

## Memorial Urges Uniform Time

Salem - (UP) - Rep. Carl Fisher (R-Eugene) says he is introducing a House joint memorial urging Congress to pass legislation for uniform time applicable to all states in their respective time zones.

Fisher said all or part of 28 states observe daylight saving time five months out of the year and this disrupts orderly travel, communications and commerce.

He said the memorial's purpose is not to create daylight saving time in Oregon or any other state.

"I am merely seeking a means to end what amounts to a national inconvenience for airlines, railroads, travelers, shippers and any business engaged in interstate commerce, whose livelihood and daily routine is directly affected by the present lack of uniformity in designating time."

## Field Review Set By BLM on Monday

A field review for prospective bidders on the west branch of the Elk creek access road project, has been scheduled by the Medford district of the bureau of land management for Tuesday, Jan. 31.

Persons planning to review the project should be at the Medford office at 7:30 a.m., Tuesday. Invitation for bids on construction of the road are now being accepted by the Portland office of the bureau of public roads.

The road will be 5.33 miles long and will be constructed on a lump-sum basis. An estimated volume of 1,363,000 board feet of timber appraised at \$33,528 is located on the right of way across BLM lands. An estimated volume of 366,000 board feet of timber appraised at \$13,397 is located on the right of way on controverted O and C lands administered by the Rogue River National forest.

### BOYS CLUB HEAD DIES

Palm Beach, Fla. - (UP) - William Edwin Hall, 82, New York and Connecticut lawyer and industrialist famed as president of the Boys Club of America, died Monday.

## Quotes From the News

BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL  
Stillwater, Okla. - A London telephone operator, after she was connected with a home here instead of one with the same number in Montreal:  
"Blimey, I've got me the wrong state."

Washington - Russian born choreographer George Balanchine, after having tea with Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy:  
"She's like a fairy queen... the beginning of a new inspiration for the United States."

Hollywood - Eleanor Powell, in announcing her plans for a comeback as a dancer:  
"My 14-year-old son Peter bet me I couldn't do it. He thinks I'm still from the horse and buggy era."

Chappaqua, N.Y. - Tommy Manville, on learning that his ninth wife is suing him for \$1 million:  
"I am very discouraged that she didn't sue me for \$5 million."

Portland Man To Talk For Senior Citizens  
J. M. Burk, regional director of the National League of Senior Citizens, Portland, will be guest speaker at a meeting of the league in the old Grants Pass library, Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m. The Senior Citizens club, the 49ers and all other interested persons have been invited to attend.

## Wall Street Chatter

New York - (UP) - Many of the technical factors which are signals for an approaching buying climax have been evident for the past week and a correction of sorts would come as no surprise, particularly with the historically bearish month of February close at hand, according to R. E. Buschbaum of W. E. Hutton & Co.

He notes that low-priced speculations are now attracting more attention and are following in the wake of the so-called quality cyclical issues which have dominated the upside since the first of the year.

The revived enthusiasm could naturally reach dangerous proportions, Buschbaum says, but for the moment it does not appear to have gotten out of hand.

Moody's stock survey suggests sale of Caterpillar tractor, Great Northern Railway,

and Johns-Manville. It also would switch U. S. Pipe & Foundry into Sunray Mid-Continent Oil.

Martin Gilbert of Van Alstyne, Noel & Co., says he would expect an eventual test of the all-time highs of a year ago, but on the way up, however, not only must the 643 area of the Dow-Jones industrial be penetrated but also the 863 area of that index. These prior tops will provide a strong hurdle to overcome, he says.

The weaving of rugs, carpets and tapestry was a substantial industry in Egypt as long ago as 1300 B.C.

Independent Liechtenstein, a principality between Switzerland and Austria of 15,000 inhabitants, is mostly agricultural.

## Missionary To Conduct Services in Phoenix

Dick Cochran, missionary from the Near East will conduct a series of evening services at 7:30 p.m. today and tomorrow in the Phoenix First Presbyterian church, the Rev. William A. Saladin has announced. A potluck dinner will be held at 6:15 p.m. Thursday at which Cochran will show films of the Near East.



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**'Sleeping Beauty' Mother Sentenced**

Cleveland, Ohio - (UP) - A judge Tuesday told the mother of the "sleeping beauty" sisters she was lucky she was not on trial for murder and gave her the maximum sentence of one year in jail for drugging her daughters into mysterious comas.

Juvenile Court Judge Albert A. Woldman told Mrs. Lillian Frantantonio, 29, one of her daughters almost died in a New York hospital from drugs she gave the children. Emergency mouth-to-mouth resuscitation saved Bernadette, 3, from dying.

Woldman said there was no evidence that she was mentally ill. He accused her of continuing to drug the children because she enjoyed the nationwide publicity surrounding the case.

Woldman said Mrs. Frantantonio, after she began drugging the girls, Bernadette and Venite, 6, knew they were undergoing great pain in medical tests such as spine and brain taps but continued giving drugs because of the publicity surrounding the case.

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