

Siegfried Line Is Troublesome, Costly Project

By JOHN A. CALCOTT
United Press International
Bonn — Adolf Hitler's
vaunted Siegfried line now is
nothing but a troublesome
mess of derelict ruins mostly
overgrown with grass and
trees.

The 500-mile long line of
reinforced concrete bunkers
and man-high tank traps cost
millions to build and today is
costing millions to demolish.

It was a complete waste of
money, anyway, because the
American troops advancing
into Germany in 1945 just
went around the West wall,
as the Germans called it.

The Siegfried line begins
near Aachen on Germany's
border with Belgium and Hol-
land and runs all the way
along the French border to
Switzerland.

Its destruction began im-
mediately after the war but
still is far from complete.
Some 300 aboveground and
underground bunkers have
been blown up, with 200
more to go. It costs between
10,000 and 30,000 marks (\$2-
500 to \$7,500) to destroy one
bunker, government officials
said.

Blowing up bunkers is only
half the problem. Between
each of them run 20-yard wide
strips of "dragon's teeth"
tank traps, all firmly en-
trenched in the ground.

Each concrete fang takes
time to demolish. The mas-
sive chunks of broken con-
crete then must be removed
or broken into smaller pieces
for road building.

Adding to the present-day
cost of demolishing the Siegf-
ried line are demands for
damages from hundreds of
farmers through whose land
the fortification runs.

"If I could have used the
land taken up by those
damned pillars I would have
made thousands of marks,"
complained farmer Josef Rie-
mer, of Hertzogenrath on the
Dutch frontier. The remains
of a giant bunker stand smack
in the middle of one of his
fields.

Hitler, government officials
said, rarely compensated the
farmers for lost land.

In fact, they said, it prob-
ably will be cheaper to pay
this compensation now than
to demolish what's left of the
West wall. This is probably
what will be done in the end.

Officials said estimates of
the cost of getting rid of Hit-
ler's barricade run as high as
50 million marks, (\$12.5 mil-
lion).

Many farmers store pota-
toes or beets in the ruins.
Some intact bunkers are used
by NATO forces as ammuni-
tion dumps.

One farmer in Wahlheim,
on the Belgian border, has a
permanent wartime souvenir
in his back garden. A six-lane
row of tank traps runs right
behind his house, the nearest
just a few feet from the back
door. If the traps were blown
up, the farmhouse also would
be demolished.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
STATE OF OREGON, FOR
JACKSON COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of
LYDIA MARIE SCARSETH, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
I have been appointed by the
Circuit Court of the State of Ore-
gon for Jackson County, as Ad-
ministrator of the estate of Lydia
Marie Scarseth, deceased, and have
duly qualified. All persons having
claims against said estate are here-
by notified to present them, with
proper vouchers, and duly verified
to me at the office of Kelly &
Grant, Attorneys, 1005 East Main
Street, Medford, Oregon, within
six months from the date of this
notice.

DATED at Medford, Oregon, this
28th day of April, 1952.

ARTHUR B. SCARSETH
Administrator.

KELLY & GRANT
Attorneys for Estate
1005 East Main
Medford, Oregon.

NOTICE OF MEETING OF
COUNTY BOARD OF
EQUALIZATION

Notice is hereby given that on
Monday, May 14, 1952, the Board
of Equalization of the County of
Jackson, Oregon, will meet at the
County Courthouse in Medford,
Oregon, to publicly examine the
assessment rolls for said County
of Jackson, for the year 1952,
and to correct all errors in valua-
tion, description, or qualities of
land, lots or other property assess-
ed by the assessor.

The ratio between assessed and
true cash value adopted by the
Board of Equalization pursuant to
ORS 309.034 is 25 per cent. (The
ratio determined by the Assessor
pursuant to ORS 309.026 is 25 per
cent.)

It shall be the duty of the per-
sons interested to appear at the
time and place appointed. Peti-
tions for adjustment of assessments
must be filed with the Board of
Equalization not later than the
Monday of the week following the
first week that the Board is in
session.

Thad W. Hatten,
Assessor,
County of Jackson,
Oregon.

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