

FALL OF ST. LO DRAWS NEAR

The Herald and News

In The Shasta-Cascade Wonderland

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KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON, THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1944

Number 10209

Weather News

July 13, 1944
 Max. (July 12) 83 Min. 43
 Precipitation last 24 hours 0.00
 Stream year to date 9.89
 Normal 11.99 Last year 17.78
 Forecast: Warmer.

Japs Attack At Aitape

HEAVY FORCE MASSED FOR NEW ASSAULT

Nips Hope to Blast Escape From New Guinea

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea, July 13 (AP)—Ending two months of smoldering quiet, Japan's trapped, bypassed 18th army has suddenly and viciously attacked Americans entrenched near Aitape, British New Guinea.

Headquarters announced today that the Japanese, faced with starvation or eventual erasure between advancing Australian and American troops, had massed a heavy force, apparently in the hope of blasting an escape route for 45,000 men westward through Aitape into Dutch New Guinea.

Opening Skirmishes
"Opening skirmishes with our outguard and reconnaissance groups now are taking place," the communique reported.

The Japanese, after massing for several days, attacked Monday night along the Drinimor river, 21 miles east of American-occupied Aitape.

The Americans, veterans of the New Guinea campaigns at Buna and Saldor, dug in and held.

The Japanese renewed their assaults Tuesday. Results of that action have not been disclosed. Allied planes raked the 130 miles of enemy-held coast east to the Australian-held Sepik river.

A headquarters spokesman, asked why the Japs were trying to break out of the trap, said: "They lose if they sit because they'll starve to death."

New Yorker's Knowledge of Oregon Limited

PORTLAND, July 13 (AP)—Harry Daniel, president of the Oregon Humane society, complained today about New Yorker's knowledge of northwest geography.

A letter from the executive vice president of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said he had heard that wild horses in eastern Oregon were being driven over cliffs into the ocean.

Forest Areas Closed

MEDFORD, July 12 (AP)—Fourteen areas in the Deschutes National forest and in state forest areas of Jackson county were closed today as the onset of hot weather increased fire hazards.

The barred Deschutes forest regions are Green Ridge, Lower Metolius River, Wickiup, Haner Butte, Walker Mountain, Odell Butte, Trout Creek, Big Hole, Royce Mountain, and Chinquapin Butte.

Naval, Air Blows Continue Softening Of Guam; Jap Airforce Knocked Out

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor, July 13 (AP)—Sustained American air and naval blows focused attention today on Guam, southwest of Saipan.

Figures for both sides established new records for fierce fighting among the Pacific's islands:

1. The 15,053 American casualties, including 2359 killed, 11,481 wounded and 1213 missing.

2. The Japanese dead—11,948 already buried by Yank troops, with many more to be accounted for. One heavily strafed ravine alone is believed to hold 1000 Jap bodies.

Prussia Danger Grave As Reds Smash Forward

LONDON, July 13 (AP)—Wilno has been captured by the red army, Marshal Stalin announced tonight.

The Russians first broke into Wilno (Vilna) six days ago and since engaged in bitter street fighting against the reinforced German garrison of the encircled city.

The city, with a peacetime population of 200,000, has changed hands many times in a long and turbulent history. It lies on the main Leningrad-Warsaw railroad and is the junction of that route and the Minsk-Kaunas-Konigsberg line.

Stalin's announcement in an order of the day addressed to Gen. Ivan Cherniakhovsky, commander of the third White Russian front, said the German garrison was liquidated today and directed that it be celebrated by a 24-salute salute from 324 Moscow cannons.

BATTLE CASUALTIES NEAR 1918 TOTALS

WASHINGTON, July 13 (AP)—Announced American battle casualties in the present war are approaching the total casualties incurred in the first World war. Unreported results in the last three weeks of heavy fighting in France possibly have brought the total past the 1917-1918 mark.

A total of 187,028 army casualties announced today by Acting War Secretary Patterson brought to 235,411 the overall total of officially announced casualties on the ground, in the air and at sea. The first World war's overall total was 278,828.

Few From Front
Today's announcement, however, contained "very few" casualties from the Normandy front and none of the heavy navy losses on Saipan. Inclusion of 24,162 previously reported casualties in France, up to June 20, and the announced 15,053 casualties on Saipan bring this war's total to 274,626.

The overall army-navy total was an increase of 8415 over a previous report covering the period through June 13. Army dead increased 1218; the navy 260.

The army casualties announced today include 33,240 (Continued on Page Two)

Allan Sevcik Dies in Islands

Mrs. J. C. Sevcik today received from the provost marshal's office official word that her little grandson, Allan Laird Sevcik, had died in the Philippine Islands.

The news was released by the Japanese government through the American Red Cross and gave neither the circumstances of the baby's illness nor the nature of burial.

The little boy, with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sevcik, were taken prisoners of the Japanese when the Philippines fell in 1942. Paul Sevcik died some time ago and as far as is known here, Mrs. Sevcik is a prisoner at the Santa Tomas prison camp in the Philippines.

Baseball Scores

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
First game	R.	H.	E.
Boston	2	6	0
New York	4	8	0
F. Barrett, Ryba (8) and Pardee; Bonham and Hemsley.			

O'Connor Named Red Cross Head

WASHINGTON, July 13 (AP)—President Roosevelt today appointed D. Basil O'Connor, head of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, as chairman of the central committee of the American Red Cross to succeed the late Norman H. Davis.

O'Connor, former New York law partner of Mr. Roosevelt, will serve the remainder of a term expiring December 11 this year. Davis died several days ago.

Jap Admiral Killed in Action

LONDON, July 13 (AP)—Vice Admiral Kichichi Hasegawa of the Japanese navy was killed in action, the Berlin radio said today in a dispatch from the Japanese naval station of Yokosuka.

Berlin said Admiral Hasegawa had been attached to the technical staff of the fleet air arm headquarters since 1942.

Club Home For Service Men's Relatives



Here is Soroptimist house, the old George Humphreys home at 73 Pine, leased by the Soroptimist club July 1, to provide a place to stay for visiting relatives of servicemen stationed here. Some tenants have already moved in. Open house will be held at the new establishment soon. Nine rooms at Soroptimist house are available for renting on a sort of informal hotel basis at nominal rates and with kitchen privileges. The downstairs living room is also for the use of tenants. Manager of the house is Mrs. Twyla Ferguson.

Japanese Forces Gain in Drive on Canton Railway

By SPENCER MOOSA
CHUNGKING, July 13 (AP)—Japanese forces battering at Hengyang and troops driving up from Canton are only 180 miles apart in their campaign to close the Canton-Hankow railway and split China in half, the Chinese high command indicated tonight.

Most of the gains seemed to come from the south, where the left wing of the enemy force pressed to within 12 miles of Yingtak, strategic town 70 miles north of Canton.

Japs Town Down
The Chinese said the Japanese were thrown back here in an attempt to cross the Lein river, which bars the way to further advance northward.

The Chinese blocking the southward advance held out in battered Hengyang through three nights of bombings that wrecked numerous buildings, and beat off renewed assaults by land.

Favorable to Chinese
Generally, the high command pictured the fighting in Hunan province as favorable to the Chinese. One Chinese force was striking in the vicinity of Yengyang, 25 miles northeast of (Continued on Page Two)

Caterpillars Take Over Shasta City

W. Yeoman, who was recently in Shasta City, Calif., reports that the city is practically being eaten up by a type of yellow caterpillar.

All the gardens are being devastated by these vicious little creatures, Yeoman said. The caterpillars have somehow got into the city mains and at times when the water is turned on in private homes the creatures come out instead of B.O.

The snow brush in the surrounding country is practically bare with all the leaves eaten off. The bugs crawl all over the highways, Yeoman reported, and the hand cars on the railroad have to have brooms in front to sweep the caterpillars off the track so the cars can get some traction.

Destroyers Lost By Allies

LONDON, July 13 (AP)—Six American and British destroyers were lost in landing operations in France, the U. S. navy department and the British admiralty announced tonight.

The former Grace liner Santa Clara, renamed the transport Susan B. Anthony, also was lost by American naval forces along with the minesweeper Tide, the destroyer escort Rich and the fleet tug Partridge.

The American destroyers were the Corry and Glennon, built in 1940-41 program, and the Meredith. President Roosevelt announced soon after the landings that two destroyers had been lost. He did not name them.

Bonomi Government to Find Rome in Chaotic Condition

By EDWARD KENNEDY
ROME, July 13 (AP)—Premier Ivanoe Bonomi's government will establish itself Saturday in a Rome still beset by chaotic conditions after six weeks of allied occupation.

Though the capital's food supply problems are far from solved, the food situation is better for the masses than in the final days under the Germans, but most public services are worse now than when the Germans were here. The main cause of this is the damage done to installations by the Germans.

BRADLEY MEN STRIKE BLOWS AT ROAD TOWN

Doughboys Make City Untenable For Nazis

By WES GALLAGHER
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, July 13 (AP)—The fall of St. Lo, kingpin of German road communications in the base of the Cherbourg peninsula, drew near tonight, field dispatches reported, under the blows of Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley's American army.

Staking a mass of artillery and tanks and the relentless drive of spirited infantry against fanatical Nazi resistance, Bradley's forces apparently were fast throttling the Germans in the town with a two-fisted grip which had edged past it on the east and was bearing down all along the line to the west.

A dispatch from Associated Press Correspondent Don Whitehead said the Americans were only a mile and a half away on dominant heights to the east where their guns already made the town untenable except for die-hard parachutists dug into Cassino-like debris.

American guns sprayed at will the road network leading into the town.

Supreme headquarters announced the capture of seven towns by the Americans in gains along a 46-mile front.

La Boulaye Taken
On their left flank Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley's warriors captured La Boulaye, 21 miles east of St. Lo. They pressed on across the St. Lo-Bayeux road and reached the outskirts of La Barre de Semilly, 24 miles southeast of St. Lo.

St. Lo was plainly visible to the Americans, fighting only a mile and a half away.

Northeast of the town, the Americans widened their bridge. (Continued on Page Two)

Yanks Break Nazi Lines in Italy

ROME, July 13 (AP)—American troops of the fifth army, breaking through German defenses of the upper Era valley some 17 miles inland from Italy's west coast in a flanking move against Livorno, have captured the town of Livorno in the bitterest fighting Italy has seen in recent weeks, allied headquarters announced today.

The doughboys quickly mopped up all enemy soldiers remaining in the town yesterday, taking 150 to 200 prisoners, and surged on northward. By noon they had closed to a point only 12 miles from the Arno River valley, key to the outer strong-points of the German "gothic line" defenses—supposedly the last strong natural barrier left to the enemy short of the Po River line in northern Italy.

Lindbergh Goes To South Pacific

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC, July 13 (AP)—Charles A. Lindbergh has arrived at southwest Pacific headquarters after a tour of southwest and South Pacific airfields as a civilian technician during which he demonstrated and lectured on gasoline conservation and care of engines in U. S. warplanes.

Spain Grants Landing Rights

WASHINGTON, July 13 (AP)—The state department reported today it had reached an agreement with the Spanish government for landing rights for American commercial aircraft in Spain.

Several technical problems remain to be worked out and the department said that pending their solution no detailed announcement would be made.

FDR-Churchill Meeting Eyed

WASHINGTON, July 13 (AP)—A meeting between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill may come about before long, the way cleared in part by Mr. Roosevelt's dramatic revision of French policy to permit practical cooperation with General Charles de Gaulle.

The problem of Anglo-American relations with De Gaulle's national committee of liberation has been one of the most difficult ever to trouble the course of affairs which have to be handled jointly by Washington and London.

Hey Fellas!

Klamath service men home on leave, whose names appear in our service men's registry, have passes to the theatre, waiting them at The Herald and News office.

There are a number of passes not yet called for. They're yours, fellas. Come and pick 'em up.

Black Markets
Black marketing is not as extensive as it was just before the war. (Continued on Page Two)

By FRANK JENKINS
THERE isn't much new on the war fronts as this is written. We're consolidating the positions we won at Caen—and, of course, getting its port into shape. Ports are our No. 1 concern in Europe now. The port of Caen is a canalized river, and barges have to be unloaded into barges.

The Germans are still within range, and until we are able to drive them back will interfere seriously with our use of the port.

UP in the Baltic states the Russians are driving hard toward East Prussia, evidently aiming to GET ONTO GERMAN SOIL. German civilians are pouring out.

Day's News

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UP in the Baltic states the Russians are driving hard toward East Prussia, evidently aiming to GET ONTO GERMAN SOIL. German civilians are pouring out.

The Romanians tell of a big new Russian offensive north of Iasi, toward the Galati gap and the Ploesti oil fields.

IN the Pacific, the Japs are acutely worried by our obvious plans to bomb their homeland from Saipan. Their leaders are warning the people that the situation is serious.

A little worrying will do the Japs good.

THERE isn't any really startling news on the home front. FDR's announcement that "it dominated he will accept and if elected will serve" has been so long expected that it is a good deal like the coming of Christmas. We've been quite certain that if we waited long enough it would arrive.

FDR, naturally enough, really believes that NO ONE ELSE can steer the country through the war and the ensuing peace. Practically ALL executives who have been on their jobs a long time come to feel that way.

This writer, for example, thinks no one else is good enough to run his business and is always a little disappointed when he comes back to the office after an absence and finds everything running smoothly and efficiently.

It doesn't matter so much what FDR thinks about it. What will count is whether the American people have reached the point where they are convinced that ONLY ONE MAN is capable of running the United States.

THIS indispensable man complex is a thread that runs more or less through all recorded history.

The Athenians got it—in Pericles' time. Pericles was a shrewd and able demagogue who specialized in giving the Athenians what they wanted, no matter what it cost. It cost a lot, but the Athenians LIKED it.

It worked, too—for a LONG time. The early decades of Pericles' rule are known historically as the "golden age" of Athens.

EVENTUALLY, the "golden age" began to peter out. The time came when Pericles could pull no more rabbits out of hats. Athens started downhill, and kept going.

This was the trouble: The pleasure-loving Athenians had got just too LAZY to bother with the annoying details of getting good men into office and going on with the job of providing and MAINTAINING good government and wise public policy.

It was so EASY to leave it to Pericles. And Pericles never seemed to mind. As the citizens of Athens LAID DOWN their powers and their rights and their responsibilities, Pericles PICKED THEM UP and went on from there.

He always seemed to have the answer.

IN the course of time, the magic of Pericles (great public works, WPA projects, spending and still more spending) began to wane and Athens began to SLIP.

But by that time the citizens of Athens had LOST THEIR ABILITY to govern themselves. They were hopeless to check the decline.

The outcome of it was that the glory of Athens came to an end—a quite tragic end.

History tells us all about it.

THAT is the trouble with indispensable men. When they pass on, or their magic begins to fade, it is so hard to find another man of the same sort.

And MEANWHILE we have lost our ability to do things for ourselves. Leaving things to the indispensable man is fine while it lasts, but it never seems to last indefinitely.

We're left in such a mess when the indispensable man is with us no more.

OUR brass hats keep worrying about us home-fronters. Their communiques are all cheerful. Through them runs constantly the note of "the marines have landed and the situation is well in hand." We get all the good news at once, and all the bad news is withheld from us. (Pearl Harbor, the first Tokyo raid, the little Pearl Harbor at Bari, in Italy, etc.)

We learn in the past couple of days that since the beginning of the summer offensive 200,000 Germans have surrendered to the allies—35,000 in Italy, 54,000 in (Continued on Page Four)