

STEVENS TRIAL OPENS TODAY, JURY SELECTED

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Jurors Elsie Swamy, Frank J. Sullivan, A. M. Collier, Harry Obenchain, Ervin W. Kramer, M. D. Drullner, William Frohmeyer, E. M. Bubb, Ralph T. Howard, Rufus A. Quillen, F. E. French and Henry Grimes.

District Attorney Clarence A. Humble presented briefly the state's case to the jury. He outlined activities of the young marine the night in question, described finding Bold's unconscious body near the rear entrance of Kern's Implement company the morning of December 6, followed through with Stevens' alleged contacts of the next 24 hours, and the marine's arrest at the Barracks the evening of December 6.

Describing circumstances of the case as sordid, Defense Attorney O'Neill advised the jury he "regretted" it was necessary to introduce such evidence. O'Neill also traced activities of Stevens, Bold, and a marine companion of the defendant, Pvt. Gerard Bussler of Lewiston, Maine, also stationed at the Marine Barracks.

The marines met Bold at the Buffalo lunch on S. 6th, O'Neill said, and asked for a ride into town.

All three were drinking at the time, O'Neill said. Bussler left Stevens and Bold during the evening and Bold then is said to have driven his companion "down a dark alley." There, O'Neill stated, Bold made improper advances toward Stevens and the marine struck Bold after the farmer had stepped from the car.

At this point, the defense contended, Stevens took the car as he did not know in what part of the community he was, and it was dark.

Stevens then drove around town, O'Neill said, met some friends, ate, and then returned to the Marine Barracks. The next morning, O'Neill told the jury, Stevens talked the matter over with friends and planned to take the car back to town.

The marine had also told friends that he had hit Bold, but did not consider that Bold was badly hurt.

Throughout his opening statement, Defense O'Neill asked the jury to keep in mind "the salient fact that the state claimed Bold was assaulted where he was found." O'Neill advised the jury that "we do not claim that, as Stevens did not know where he was when he struck Bold."

That the three, Stevens, Bussler and Bold, were drinking

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the night before Bold was found unconscious, was freely admitted by the defense. The trio had been at various roadhouses on S. 6th and Pvt. Bussler left the two to go to Chick's cafe near Kern's. It was at this point, the defense contends, Bold drove to a dark alley, parked, and made his advances which the 21-year-old marine resented.

As the defense completed its story, Circuit Judge Vandenberg recessed until 2 p. m. today.

CONSUMERS FACING HIGHER MEAT PRICE

WASHINGTON, March 26 (AP)—Higher meat prices for consumers were projected at a senate food investigation today as a means of breaking the black market and providing better distribution of available supplies.

Wilbur LaRoe Jr., counsel for the National Independent Meat Packers association, told of losses he said packers suffered for months on their operations. Sen. Ellender (D-La.) commented: "The only solution as I understand your argument would be to raise the price to the consuming public."

"No, you can increase the subsidy," interjected Senator Aiken (R-Vt.). "Is there any way to break the black market except by getting a fair price for producers, processors and dealers?" asked Senator Shipstead (R-Minn.). "I don't know of any," LaRoe replied.

Packers Lose Under OPA Senator Lucas (D-Ill.) pressed for a suggestion as to what Congress should do in the present great situation after LaRoe testified that packers, under OPA regulations, have lost money for two years on beef operations, have avoided bankruptcy only by profits on hogs, and since August have been losing on hogs.

He hoped, LaRoe replied, that OPA could be persuaded to change its regulations. He suggested that the senate committee call in Price Administrator Chester Bowles and talk to him about it.

Meat Supply Questioned Senators asked today why Great Britain does not get more meat from Canada and less from the United States as they began a broad investigation into the nation's food situation.

Senator Wheeler (D-Mont.) told the agriculture committee he understood the Canadians had ample meat and recommended an inquiry into why more of it was not used for lend-lease.

Saying he agreed that it was a point that should be investigated, Senator Shipstead (R-Minn.) said his information was the butcher was unrationed in Canada.

"Why can't they send it to Great Britain?" asked Senator Ellender (D-La.). "The British have to pay for it if they get it from Canada," Shipstead replied.

(Government agencies announced recently that lend-lease meat shipments to Britain are being drastically cut for this quarter.)

As the committee began its hearings, Chairman Thomas (D-Okla.) announced that one aim will be to "uncover and destroy" black markets.

TIN PANTS TIN COATS OREGON WOOLEN 800 Main

TOKYO CLAIMS YANKS INVADE RYUKYU ISLES

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naval and aerial bombardment demonstrates the remarkable staying power of Adm. Raymond A. Spruance's 5th fleet and its fast carrier task force commanded by Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher. Only a week ago they raided southwestern Japan for two days.

Japanese ground troops in central China advanced as much as 25 miles along a 90 mile front while their comrades in Burma and the Philippines suffered further reverses. One Japanese column seized Ichang, 145 miles northwest of Hankow and only 55 miles from a U. S. air base.

British Advance In Burma British forces captured six towns in central Burma and in one 15-mile advance seized two loaded military supply trains.

Six Japanese counterattacks were repulsed by the U. S. 25th and 32nd divisions on northern Luzon island in the Philippines while the first cavalry began a drive toward the heretofore untouched southern arm of Luzon.

Cebu, in the central Philippines, was heavily bombed for the sixth consecutive day, possibly in preparation for another invasion.

EDITORIALS ON NEWS

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heavy enough (as yet) to turn the roads to quagmires.

THE Japs say this morning that we're attempting landings on Okinawa, in the Ryukyus. The landings, Tokyo radio asserts, are covered by a fleet including 15 carriers, 11 battleships, 10 cruisers, 32 destroyers and "innumerable" auxiliary vessels.

It may be so. The Ryukyus, of which Okinawa is the most important, screen the entrance to the East China sea, which is Japan's gateway to China by way of the valleys of the Yangtze and the Yellow rivers and their interconnecting canals and related rail systems.

If we are landing on Okinawa, so soon after Iwo Jima and without the usual protracted bombing and bombardment, it speaks volumes for our confidence in the power we have at hand and ready for use.

OUR Philippine-based bombers are reported to have smashed a big hydro-electric plant on Formosa which supplies power to Jap war industries and military activities on two-thirds of the big island. These industries include two plants that are believed to supply some 15 per cent of Japan's aluminum.

OKINAWA, in the center of the Ryukyus screen, is a fairly big island, some 75 miles long by three to 15 wide. Its population is around 400,000, and its southern part is good land, highly cultivated.

It is reef-fringed, but once ashore we would have several miles of flat land, suitable for tanks and war of maneuver on a small scale. It would be totally different from Iwo Jima—more like Levite.

THE Japs are still pushing westward in central China, on a fairly wide front. They do not seem as yet to have been materially checked by the Chinese or by anything our air forces there have been able to do in the way of support to the Chinese.

Harrison Named Agency Director WASHINGTON, March 26 (AP)—Wallace K. Harrison of Huntington, N. Y., was named by President Roosevelt Saturday as Director of inter-American affairs.

Harrison has been acting executive officer of the agency since Nelson A. Rockefeller was named assistant secretary of state. His new post pays \$10,000 a year.

If it's a "trozen" article you need, advertise for a used one in the classified.



The march on the Rhine became the march over the Rhine as three Allied armies hurled themselves across the water barrier. The Canadian First, British Second and U. S. Ninth under Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery were on the east side of the Rhine and engaging bridgeheads near Wesel. The U. S. First and 15th Armies widened their original crossing in the vicinity of Remagen and the U. S. Third Army drove a new crossing near Mannheim while the U. S. Seventh farther south was poised for a jump-off.

Senate Opposes Manpower Bill

WASHINGTON, March 26 (AP)—The compromise manpower bill under which War Mobilizer Byrnes could freeze workers to essential jobs headed into further senate opposition today.

Senator O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.) declined as a senate conferee to sign the measure agreed upon by a senate and house group and said he could not support the compromise when it reaches the senate floor. Little opposition was expected in the house, where it will come up tomorrow.

Major Denny Rees Returns Home

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were allowed to do pretty much as they wanted. They were also under Jap regulations, but they were not so strict.

The daily ration of food generally consisted of 250 grams of rice, which equals approximately one-half pound, 10 grams of fish, or about one tablespoonful, and 100 grams of some vegetable, usually potato tops, most of the fresh vegetables going to the Japanese. On some weeks, native cattle would be killed, and Rees said the prisoners declared they were on the NRA system (next to ribs). Again the Japanese got the choice cuts of meat.

It took two years for any correspondence to reach Major Rees. His first letter was dated February, 1943, and was delivered to him during the first of the following year. The delay was caused mostly in the rigid censoring, being first read by the Americans, then the Red Cross, then the Japs at Manila

RAINBOW ENDS TONITE

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Portland Wants Battleship Back

PORTLAND, March 26 (AP)—Oregon still wants its battleship back after the war.

Marshall N. Dana, chairman of the Battleship Oregon commission, said today that if the hull is still afloat when the war ends, the commission wants it returned to Portland harbor.

ALLIED AIRMEN HIT STRATEGIC TARGETS

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of another two-way blow coordinated with the U. S. 12th air force in Italy. Bombers from Italy hammered communications in Austria, the German radio reported.

The Germans also indicated that Russian bombers attacked Berlin.

The American bombers yesterday launched what may be one of their toughest assignments—hunting out and blasting German underground factories and warehouses.

Mesquitos Attack Last night Mesquitos attacked Berlin for the 34th consecutive night and American night-prowling planes joined in hammering German targets. The night attacks followed yesterday's pulverizing of German strongpoints and reinforcement centers in front of Field Marshal Montgomery's drive into the Ruhr by thousands of allied planes.

The kickoff of the campaign against hidden underground objectives was made yesterday by a force of 250 British-based Liberators which attacked three buried oil storage dumps between Hamburg and Brunswick.

A large number of synthetic oil refineries are located in this region and their production was believed to have gone into reserve depots for Field Marshal Albert Kesselring's armies.

8000 Sorties Flown Altogether 8000 sorties were flown yesterday, with the Liberators reporting good results against the underground oil targets at Eymen, Buchen and Hitzacker and with 800 RAF heavy planes smashing at freight yards at Hannover, Osnabruck and Muenster.

Approximately 8000 German vehicles of all types from tanks to wagons were destroyed by the tactical air forces over Rhine bridgeheads.

Hans Norland Auto Insurance, Phone 8080.

RUSSIANS OPEN NEW OFFENSIVE IN SLOVAKIA

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Along the Baltic the Russians had broken into Danzig's northwestern suburbs, and the Germans said Gdynia had been penetrated as well.

Below the Danube the Russians bypassed the fortress of Komarom and were fighting west of the stronghold.

Two Russian armies already had overrun four-fifths of Hungary below the Danube and their spearhead was within 36 miles of the Austrian border and 77 miles southeast of Vienna.

Berlin broadcasts said a new assault had been sprung north of the Danube in Slovakia, while Marshal Ivan Konev's first Ukrainian army group continued to grind through the Moravian mountains north of Vienna.

New Offensive Started The newest attack, described in Berlin as an "all-out offensive" was started on the lower reaches of the Iron river in Slovakia at 4 a. m. Saturday, a German broadcast said, and a

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bridgehead over the Iron river gained at Leva, 50 miles west of Budapest, and the tube river key to Bratislava.

More than 350 cities in United States now have air express service as compared with a total of 85 a decade ago.

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